





# Fearful Catholics plan to move their families from Ulster

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MANY Catholic families in Belfast are so frightened by the gangs of Loyalist gunmen who have murdered six men in as many days that they are planning to leave Ulster.

Parents are keeping their children in after dark and social events have been cancelled in the wake of the spiral of revenge killings that followed Saturday's IRA bomb attack in Belfast.

In Catholic west Belfast and the Ardoyne area of the city yesterday locals said they were even more frightened after the killing of two young men in Ballyduggan, Co Down. Gerard Cairns, 22 and his brother Rory, 18, were shot dead on Thursday night by Loyalist gunmen in front of their 11-year-old sister. They had been watching television in their home.

Yesterday Catholics went about their business as usual, but there was little time for gossip on the streets of Belfast as they hurried back to the relative safety of their homes.

One man in the Ardoyne area, who was waiting for someone to be shot, "Everyone is expecting something to happen here, especially with the [Shankill] bomber coming from the area. There is extra security on the bookies and locals are asking strangers to identify themselves," he said.

Ardoyne is a Catholic enclave near the Protestant Shankill Road, where Saturday's bomb exploded. More than 150 residents have been killed by Loyalists in the past

25 years. As he spoke, the man looked around nervously and hid his face when a stranger started taking photographs. He said that "Mad Dog", the most notorious Loyalist killer, had recently been sighted in the area.

"He was on one of his dummy runs. People tried to catch him but he was too quick and the police can't do anything because he is clever enough not to carry guns."

Along the road, children in tatty clothes, too young to understand the tension, kicked a football around. Black IRA flags hung from lamp posts and republican murals decorated the sides of homes.

The man too nervous to be identified was particularly worried for the safety of his five children. "We are keeping them in at night. I'd like to go out to the bookies in the day and watch the races but it's just not safe enough at the moment."

A shopkeeper on the Falls Road in west Belfast said she and her husband planned to leave Ulster. "It is very tense and frightening at the moment. My husband has never talked about moving to the south but it is a serious option even though it would take us away from our family. We just want to be safe and bring up our children away from danger."

In the bleak Beechmount area off the Falls Road locals said they had bought extra locks for their doors. Beechmount is one of the most

deprived parts of Belfast. Houses are daubed with IRA signs and children play on a slum clearance site.

Jim Armstrong, 36, who has five children, said: "At 6.00pm sharp we close the front door and put bars across it. I am wary of strangers and if I see a new face I watch them."

"My 11-year-old son comes in from school, does his homework and can then only go out for half an hour. It would be nice for him to have a proper run around with his friends, but he can't. I would leave for America tomorrow if I could, but I don't have the money."

It saddened him, he said, to see his children grow up in the shadow of the same violence he knew as a youngster at the start of the present Troubles in the late 1960s.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, last night condemned the killings of the two Catholic brothers on Thursday night as wanton and inexcusable. At the end of the bloodiest week in Ulster for eight years he said: "I am afraid that there may be more people who will suffer because there are many dangerous people out there who are determined at the moment upon violence."

Eight Loyalists were arrested in Belfast yesterday in connection with a series of sectarian attacks in the province.

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Leading article, page 17



A child in Belfast playing beneath a mural of a small Loyalist paramilitary group

## Conservation areas face funding threat

THE dramatic growth in conservation areas, where buildings are given special status for their character or history, is outstripping the abilities of some councils to care for them, Nick Nuttall writes.

A report published yesterday by the Royal Town Planning Institute indicates that many of these areas are at risk from demolition, decay and persistent development pressures.

The institute yesterday urged the government, which is evaluating planning rules, to help local authorities to care better for such areas with more funds and manpower in conservation departments. Martin Bradshaw, its president, said they were also demanding a change in the VAT rules so that works to listed

buildings were exempt from tax.

However, there were suggestions yesterday on BBC's *Today* programme that housing and inner city funding will be the biggest losers in the autumn Budget.

The institute's study, based on a survey of 280 local authorities, found that since the late 1960s the number of conservation areas has grown from one to nearly 8,000, with up to 400 new sites listed annually.

But Dr Peter Larkham, of the University of Central England in Birmingham, and one of the report's authors, warned: "The rate of designations is outstripping our skills and resources. In times of recession it is often the conservation budget which is the first to go."

## Howard moves to reduce use of cautions by police

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE home secretary yesterday acted to cut the increasing use of police cautions for criminal behaviour, and to bring thousands more people before the courts.

Michael Howard warned offenders who are cautioned that they should not expect to receive a second chance. He said he wanted to stop the use of cautions for serious offences and reduce drastically the number of repeated cautions given to offenders.

In future there would have to be exceptional circumstances for a second caution to be considered, such as an appreciable gap since the last offence.

The home secretary was responding to concern among police officers, magistrates and the judiciary that repeated cautions led youngsters to regard the law with derision. Repeated cautions also threatened to undermine a system which had proved effective for many juveniles.

Mr Howard, who expects consultation on his proposals to be complete by the end of the year, said: "Repeated cautions send completely the

wrong signal to offenders. People who commit crimes should expect to be prosecuted. If they are given a caution they should not expect another chance."

"If youngsters, when they begin to have contact with the criminal justice system, find themselves being cautioned time after time, there is a very real danger they will begin to think they can get away with anything."

"That is the most damaging signal that our system could send to them."

Formal cautions are given by an officer in uniform after a person has admitted the offence. They are written on a person's record and, in the case of juveniles, are delivered by an inspector in the presence of parents.

Last year there were 321,000 cautions for all offences, compared with 279,000 in 1991. Mr Howard described this as a high increase and added: "I expect to see a significant reduction."

Mr Howard's proposals will reverse the steady rise in the use of cautions as a way of dealing with crime, particularly

among juveniles. In 1987, 149,000 offenders were cautioned for offences that could be tried either at Crown Court or before magistrates, compared with 216,000 last year.

Labour MPs claimed that proposed changes could lead to 80,000 more prosecutions a year, swamping the courts and legal aid budget. But Mr Howard said there had been a diminution of work coming before the courts, partly because of the increase in the number of cautions.

"The courts were coping before and I see no reason why they won't cope in the future," he said.

Figures for 1991 showed that 1,577 cautions were given for serious offences which could only be tried in the Crown Court. Mr Howard said police should never give cautions for the most serious offences, such as attempted murder or rape, and only in the most exceptional circumstances for other serious offences such as robbery.

According to the Home Office, 87 per cent of all those who are cautioned are not reconvicted within two years.

## MPs drop invitation to Sheehy

By OUR HOME CORRESPONDENT

SIR Patrick Sheehy had an invitation to speak to MPs about his proposals on police pay and conditions withdrawn, less than 24 hours after the government announced it would not proceed with the most contentious recommendations.

Sir Patrick had intended to give his response to Michael Howard's compromise package. He was told yesterday in a telephone call from Sir Ivan Lawrence, Conservative chairman of the home affairs select committee, that he would not be required to give evidence to a Commons committee next week. Neither Sir Patrick nor Sir Ivan was available for comment last night.

Labour sources on the committee said there had been no attempt to "nobble" the committee to prevent potential embarrassment to Mr Howard if Sir Patrick publicly disagreed with the home secretary's decision not to implement key proposals. They said committee members felt the proposals were now a matter for the government and not Sir Patrick.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## EC to site new drug agency in London

London will be the site of the new European Medicines Evaluation Agency, the European summit in Brussels decided yesterday (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The agency, which will be responsible for evaluating new drugs on a Community-wide basis, is expected eventually to bring thousands of jobs to London. Its staff will be only 200, but many international drug companies are now expected to locate European offices in London to take advantage of proximity to the new agency.

Yesterday Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, said: "It will mean more investment and more jobs. This is good news for Britain, good news for London and good news for the British and European pharmaceutical industries."

## More bomb charges

An alleged IRA terrorist was charged at the Old Bailey yesterday with three further counts of conspiracy to cause explosions in London in December 1992. Patrick Hayes is already accused of the Harrods bombing last January and the bombing of a train in February. Hayes and Jan Taylor, who also faces bombing charges, refused to plead.

## £1 design to change

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, yesterday approved a new series of designs for the reverse of the £1 coin, the first of which will come into circulation next year. The designs will represent each of the four parts of the UK and replace the Welsh leek, Scottish thistle, English oak and Northern Ireland flax on the current coins.

## Petrol bomb thrown

About 30 Kurdish demonstrators were arrested yesterday after a petrol bomb was thrown through the window of a Turkish Airlines office in the West End of London, starting a small fire. Scotland Yard said one of them was being held on suspicion of hurling the bomb. More than 50 demonstrators halted traffic by sitting down in the street.

## Hunt supporters guilty

Roger Wakefield, 40, an Essex Farmer and Union Hunt terrierman, and Bryn Chittenden, 27, his assistant, were convicted yesterday of violent disorder at a meet last April. Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, remanded them for sentencing. Wakefield had told a saboteur: "This time we are going to give you a lesson." Hunting campaign, page 8

## Bereaved father dies

A man fell to his death from a multi-storey car park six weeks after his son killed himself in prison. Thomas Lafferty, 54, a former North Sea union leader, was found dead on Wednesday on a Glasgow street. His son Thomas, 21, died in Polmont young offenders' institution, and is thought to have hanged himself.

## Bottomley wins bonus

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, left, has secured £1.3 billion for local councils to spend on community care from next April. The sum, £20 million more than originally pledged, was welcomed by social services directors who feared a cut in spending. Mrs Bottomley also gained an extra £418 million for 1996-7. The cash was settled in the early part of the public spending round.

## Life for shooting rival

A civil servant who shot his rival in love was jailed for life yesterday. Teesside Crown Court heard that Anthony Bennett, 52, of Norton, Cleveland, killed Kevin McEvoy to eliminate him from a love triangle. They were competing for the affections of Pamela Ainsley, a married mother of three. All three were members of the same camera club.

## Museum's gems stolen

Thieves smashed a museum's toughened glass window and stole treasures from the era of King Alfred the Great. The raiders escaped from Winchester City Museum with Saxon gems worth £10,000. They failed to open cabinets containing Roman artifacts. "The thief got away with our finest items," Geoff Denford, senior keeper, said.

### ADVERTISEMENT

## How Times readers can save lives in Bosnia now

REPORT FROM TUZLA

Whoever is guilty of creating the hell that is Bosnia today, Adisa Ekrem and thousands of children like her are the innocent victims.

Six-year-old Adisa lives in an overcrowded makeshift refugee shelter near Tuzla. Orphaned after a devastating mortar blast, Adisa herself was discovered fighting for her life by UK aid agency Feed the Children. The shelter was desperately short of food, particularly the food needed by young children.

Feed the Children delivers food, medical and hygiene supplies directly to children in immediate need. They're bringing hope to hell. Their work is fast, efficient, well targeted, and often carried out in very dangerous conditions. They have saved Adisa's life - and the lives of countless more children like her.

But every week, yet more children are made homeless. Feed the Children has pledged that if military action threatens



One of the countless children in Bosnia who need your help to survive

aid deliveries to any area, they will continue to distribute supplies wherever they can in former Yugoslavia.

To do this, they need more support from people in Britain. Times readers can make a real difference. With £25, Feed the Children can feed 45 hungry infants for one day. Please give whatever you can to save the lives of these innocent children.

I won't watch children die. Here is my life-saving donation.

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### THE SUNDAY TIMES

## Victory in the Falklands

I was bitterly depressed. It was three weeks since our troops had landed on the Falklands to recapture the islands from the Argentinians. The attack on Port Stanley



was about to begin; I hoped against hope that our worst losses were behind us. Early on the morning of June 12 the duty clerk came up to the flat at Number 10 with a note...

Exclusive serialisation of the Thatcher memoirs continues tomorrow - only in The Sunday Times

## Health charges to go up in Budget

Continued from page 1  
£4.25 while dental checks rose by 6.7 per cent from £3.45 to £3.68. People who are not exempt have to pay 80 per cent of the full cost of NHS dental treatment up to a maximum of £200. Eye tests, charged by opticians, now save the government about £15 each.

Although 80 per cent of the population is exempt from prescription charges, consumer groups have claimed that rising costs have made it difficult for low income groups to afford all the drugs they are prescribed.

Mr Portillo has been arguing that those who can afford it should pay for health services to ensure that the government can continue to provide a safety net for those who cannot. Mr Portillo said last weekend that people needed to be certain that if they became ill the government would make sure all their health needs were met. If the government tried to provide everything the costs would become unsustainable.

The government has been warned that proposed cuts in John Gummer's housing budget would deal a "very serious blow" to the building industry and housing associations. The National Federation of Housing Associations reacted angrily to reports that at least £300 million would be cut from grants to the Housing Corporation which funds new homes.

Jim Coulter, the federation's director, said: "This is the most economically illiterate set of proposals yet to come out of government. Cuts would prolong the recession and hit the building industry just when it is beginning to recover."

Next week John Watts, the chairman of the Treasury and civil service committee, is expected to give the Chancellor the committee's full support for spending cuts. He will also advise against tax rises but suggest that if extra indirect taxes are imposed some of the revenue should go on helping small businesses.

### Jazz FM

Trevor Dann's comment (Vision, October 23) about advertisements to fund Jazz FM being "conspicuous by their absence" substantially understated the volume of national advertisers using the station,

and the amount - 80 per cent - of advertising air-time taken by advertisers, as opposed to the remaining 20 per cent used for station promotion. We apologise for the false impression given.

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سكزات الامم



## Singer claims Sony suppressed sales to teach him a lesson

By Joe Joseph

GEORGE Michael said yesterday that his American record company saw him as a difficult British artist with inflated ideas of his own importance when he tried to swap his raunchy image for one more likely to woo an adult audience.

"I was given the impression," the singer told the High Court on the tenth day of his lawsuit to free himself from a recording contract with Sony, "that I was a difficult British artist who takes himself too seriously and needs to be brought back into line."

Michael claims his contract with Sony, which has another 15 years to run, amounts to a restraint to trade.

Dressed in a black suit and his trademark designer snub, Michael said Sony had decided to teach him a lesson by "killing" his 1990 album *Listen Without Prejudice* when he refused to market it with a video featuring himself.

Michael, 30, felt a video might derail his transition to an "adult-oriented artist". In the thick atmosphere of Michael's friends and relatives — including his parents Jack and Leslie Panayiotou — on one side of the courtroom and Sony executives on the other, Michael also denied he was "too grand" to help map a marketing strategy for *Listen Without Prejudice* with Sony.

"I'm not too grand to sit around a table with the marketing people, but I pay a

■ George Michael gave evidence for a second day as friends and relatives faced Sony executives across the courtroom

manager to do that," he told Gordon Pollock QC, counsel for Sony.

"You don't get respect that way. They knew very well how to do their job. It's a question of whether they have finance to do it. People in marketing don't decide how much to spend on an album. Executives in the company make that decision."

When Mr Pollock countered that Sony had spent as much time and money promoting *Listen Without Prejudice* as it had on the album's predecessor, *Faith*, which was a huge success, Michael said: "I think they are lying."

Michael, who maintained the calm self-confidence he had shown during his first day of testimony on Thursday, said he knew Sony would not be "ecstatic" about his change of direction. But he said that, for his part, he did not start complaining about the drop in sales, but about Sony's attitude to something previously discussed. "The promises they made to me were not being honoured. I was expecting them to buy profile for me."

Michael said the *Prejudice* album "was not prioritised". The singles culled from it were going into the US charts at a reasonably high position and moving quickly before

stopping or slowing down. "They were not making that last effort or putting money into what creates a top five single," Michael said.

Mr Pollock said: "You are saying that the company deliberately decided to stultify sales of this album in America to teach you a lesson despite the loss of money it would involve for themselves."

Michael replied: "Yes. In this country I am one of the few very large-selling artists for Sony, but in America CBS [owned by Sony] is a hugely successful label with multi-million-selling artists and the failure of my album there would hardly make a dent in their profits." He agreed with Mr Justice Parker that he was alleging "spite".

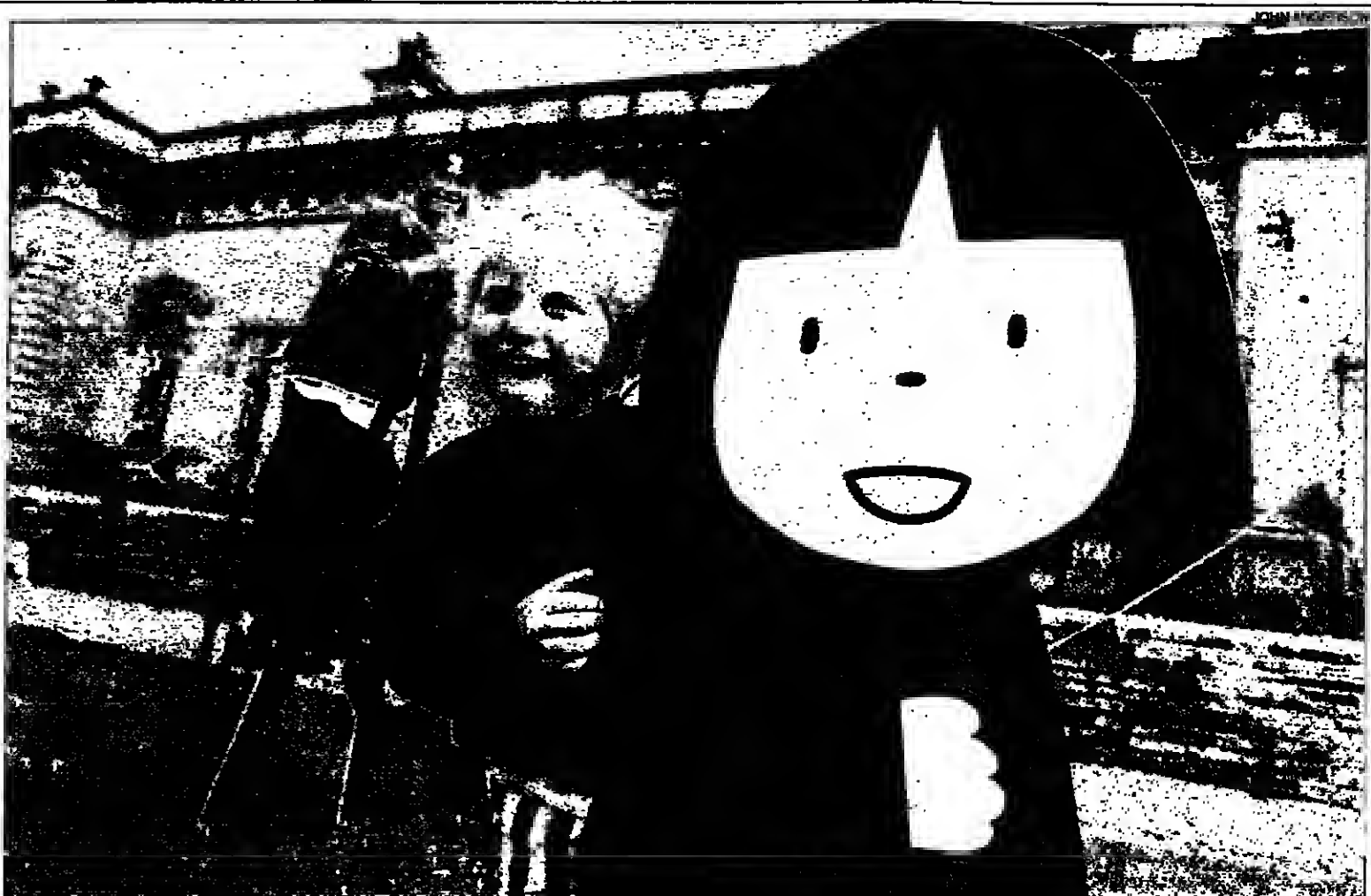
Another hole was punched in his relationship with Sony when Michael objected to the way his anti-war song *Mother's Pride* was plugged by American disc jockeys at the time of the Gulf war.

"There was co-operation between the record company and various key syndicate radio stations whereby they would make up an edit of *Mother's Pride* interspersed with messages between mothers and sons in the Gulf. I found it extremely distasteful and totally at odds with the lyrics of the song, but I knew it was going on as a result of an agreement between Sony and the radio stations, although I have no evidence for this."

"I think it was unreasonable, once they knew my objections, to go on in this way. It was reasonable of me to say I had written an anti-war song and it was being used in a jingoistic fashion to promote the Gulf war. Most artists would take objection to this and their objections would be listened to."

"There was obviously a very great misunderstanding between us as to the validity of my decisions. It gave an indication I was going to have the same problem with my next album."

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.



Young visitors at Eureka, a museum for children at Halifax, named by the English Tourist Board as one of the new success stories

## North sets its sights on London tourist trade

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

NEW visitors' attractions are challenging traditional venues such as the Tower of London and Westminster Abbey and increasing tourism.

Figures published today by the English Tourist Board show that many are turing visitors to the North and Midlands. Liverpool's Pleasure Island, one of nearly a hundred new sites, had 680,000 visitors in its first season. The newcomers increased

visits to the United Kingdom's 5,552 tourist attractions to 357 million in 1992, 1 per cent up on the previous year, and increased revenue by 6 per cent to £930 million.

The board's report, *Sightseeing in the UK 1992*, lists other success stories as Carsington Water in Ashbourne, Derbyshire (500,000 visitors in 1992); Eureka! The Museum for Children in Halifax, West Yorkshire (250,000); Cardiff Bay visitor centre (105,000); Stribston Discovery Bay, Coalville,

Leicestershire (90,000); and Treasures of the Earth at Fort William, Highland (85,000).

Adele Biss, the board's chairman, said: "It is encouraging to see the wealth of new tourist attractions that opened last year. Despite the recession, attractions are showing that tourism can buck the trend and give a boost to the economy."

Museums and galleries enjoyed the fastest growth in visits in 1992 (up 4 per cent), followed by farms (up 3 per

cent) and visitor centres (up 3 per cent). The top five attractions opened in the past five years and charging admission are the Granada Studios Tour, Manchester; Pleasure Island, Liverpool; Sea Life Centre, Blackpool; Rock Circus, London; and Metroland, Gateshead.

The board reported that 78 million visits were to historic properties, 60 million to museums, 22 million to wildlife attractions, 19 million to art galleries and 15 million to gardens.



Michael's parents Jack and Leslie arrive at court

## Murdered girl 'played at home of accused'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A GIRL of 11 yesterday described playing at the home of a man, who is alleged to have murdered one of her friends.

She told Leeds Crown Court that she and Nikki Allan played on George Heron's bed at his home in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

Mr Heron, 24, denies murdering seven-year-old Nikki last October. The jury of six men and six women have been told that Mr Heron, knowing Nikki and exploiting her childish and naive trust, led her to a derelict building where he bludgeoned her with a brick before stabbing her 37 times in the chest.

The 11-year-old girl, giving evidence by video-link from another part of the building, said Mr Heron offered Nikki cigarettes, crisps and money, but he never touched the girls.

She said she went to his home on two occasions with Nikki. They played on the bed and played at cards.

Aidan Marron QC, for the prosecution, asked: "When you were there with Nikki was George there?" The girl replied "Yes." She recalled that the two had spoken and talked about "fags". She said Mr Heron had asked Nikki if she wanted any cigarettes. She said "Yes".

The girl said that she had seen Mr Heron give Nikki crisps, but under questioning by Mr Marron said that she had not touched either of the girls.

The trial continues on Monday.

## New hope for kidnap family

By JENNY KNIGHT

THE family of a British child who disappeared on the Greek island of Kos more than two years ago have fresh hope of finding him after the arrest of a suspected child-snatching ring in Athens.

The British consul in Athens has asked Greek police to extend their enquiries into the gang to include the case of Ben Needham, whose fourth birth-

day was yesterday. Four people were arrested in Greece after a couple were caught trying to sell a baby gypsy girl.

Ben's mother said: "I have always believed that Ben was snatched and sold. I am so relieved at these arrests. We had been told repeatedly that child-selling does not go on in Greece." Police in Greece are understood to be questioning 13 other people including a

doctor and social worker over their involvement in the sale of at least 11 babies.

Ms Needham, of Sheffield, said: "I know in my heart Ben is still alive and that is what I will always believe until someone proves otherwise."

Ben's family have made several trips to Kos to try to trace him. They had suspected he was kidnapped by Mediterranean gypsies, but local police dismissed the theory.



Ben Needham aged 2, before he disappeared

## Judge frees two men who had sex with 13-year-old

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

THE judge who let a child molester go free after finding that his eight-year-old victim was "no angel" yesterday freed two men who had unlawful intercourse with a girl aged 13.

Judge Starforth Hill QC gave both men conditional discharges after police told the court that the girl was "more like Mandy Smith than the proverbial schoolgirl".

Judge Hill, 71, told the court: "She was a girl going around trying to find young men to satisfy her sexual desires. I consider the offence to be at the bottom end of the scale." He added: "I had better not say she was no angel or the national press will have a hundred field days."

In separate cases at Winchester Crown Court yesterday, Philip Lemon, 21, an unemployed marine engineer from Southampton, and Keith Dyer, 19, a factory worker from Hythe, admitted having

unlawful sex with the 13-year-old.

Later the judge said: "I have to pass a sentence because it is against the law and to prevent other young men from falling into the same trap. It would be a custodial sentence on you whatever the Court of Appeal may think."

Det Sgt Robert Bowness told the court that the girl, now aged 14, who was exceptionally attractive, had a bad reputation for her involvement with boys. Her parents had tried to protect her from herself but she had lied to them about her activities.

Counsel for the two men said the girl had encouraged them. Judge Hill said: "This girl may have been a very willing partner and encouraged you to take part in this offence. But girls of 13 years have to be protected, even from themselves."

A youth of 17 who also

admitted sexual intercourse with the same girl was let off with a caution on Crown Prosecution Service instructions. The court was told.

In June this year Judge Starforth Hill was widely criticised after he put babysitter Karl Gambrell, 21, on probation for two years after he admitted attempted unlawful intercourse with the eight-year-old in the "no angel" case. Three Appeal Court judges later ruled the sentence was unduly lenient and jailed him for four months.

In September Judge Starforth Hill faced renewed criticism for fining a Gulf war veteran who had tied up a girl friend and forced her to perform an indecent sexual act. In another case, the judge jailed a man for 18 months who had pleaded a 15-year-old boy with drink before attempting to have sex with him as he slept. The sentence outraged the boy's parents.

## Orcadians celebrate a life well lived

WE ARE met, said the Rev R. Ferguson, to celebrate a life well lived.

The cathedral of St Magnus in Kirkwall was 80 per cent full and several hundred Orcadians stood hushed on the pavement. I asked why they did not enter. "They're concerned about appearing to intrude on a private grief. It is their way," said the undertaker.

On the plane from Aberdeen Lord Mackie of Benshie, representing Jo Grimond's colleagues in the House of Lords, said: "Jo liked to be well thought of; he will be pleased we came."

Laura Grimond arrived in the cathedral on the arm of her daughter. Jo was a handsome man with an extraordinarily handsome family. We sang "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory of the Coming of the Lord". The acoustics at St Magnus, built by Vikings 800 years ago, are



The funeral service of Lord Grimond at St Magnus Cathedral at Kirkwall stirs old memories for the former Liberal MP Clement Freud

very fine, and with the music old memories returned.

I had been in Parliament for a month or so, not really knowing which matter to give priority, when I asked Grimond how he spent his days. He replied: "I can tell you exactly. I arrive at the Members' Entrance and hang up my coat, go to the post office for my mail ... and then I spend most of the rest of the day trying to remember where I put it."

Sir David Steel read the second lesson from St Paul's letters to the Ephesians (St Paul had written about the "self-defeating language of

abuse" which Grimond almost alone among prominent politicians never used).

Grimond won the seat of Orkney and Shetland in 1950 and kept it for 33 years. In the sixties it was said his support was so strong there was not a Tory vote from Muckle Flugga to Dullacollish.

When he retired from the Commons in 1983 he was the first Liberal since the war to bequeath his constituency to a man of the same political persuasion — and he continued to live on Orkney, commuting to the House of Lords, modest, generous, always available to give sound

advice to friends, colleagues and former constituents.

Jim Wallace, who succeeded him as MP, asked what he should do about local people who objected to the culling of seals. "... what is the party line?" "I always used to go on holiday," replied the great man.

After the final hymn I remembered taking Grimond to lunch at the Savoy in the 1970s, asking what — apart from being prime minister — he had wanted to do. He said he would like to have been an ambassador for a few weeks, or captain of the QE2 or manager of the Savoy hotel... and I said: "A hotel manager has to remember names; you have nine colleagues and I bet you can't name six." He named five, smiled, had another sip of wine — "perhaps I'd better stay in Parliament".

Photograph, page 20

The Samsung Personal Fax is found in all the best houses. (The Dixons, The Comet's and the Harrods.)

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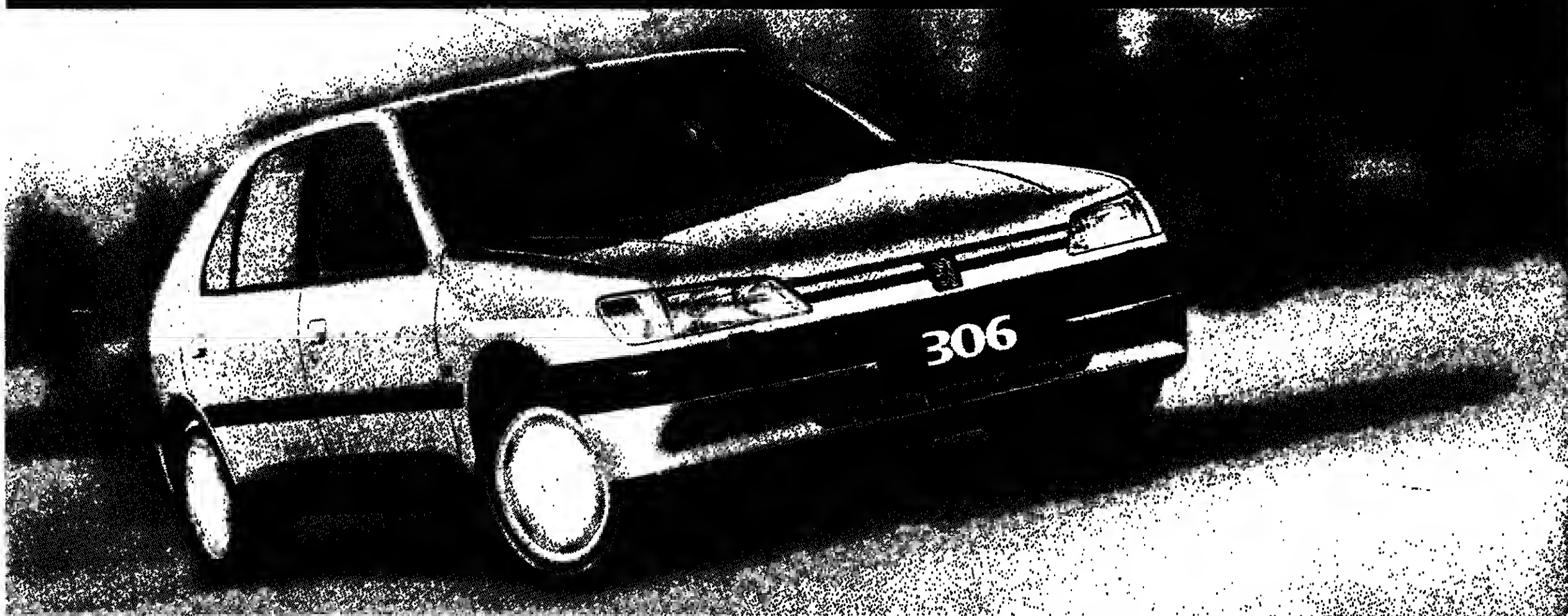
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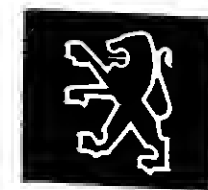


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## RSI divides doctors and lawyers as court cases pile up

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

MEDICAL and legal experts are divided over the existence of repetitive strain injury.

Orthopaedic surgeons say the term is meaningless and has no identifiable pathological basis, the stance taken by Judge Prosser QC in the High Court on Thursday when rejecting a claim by Rafiq Mughal, a Reuters journalist.

Physiotherapists, chiropractors, trade unions, lawyers, the Health and Safety Executive and ergonomists assert that, however difficult it may be to define, RSI is a real and growing problem.

With hundreds and perhaps thousands of cases waiting to come to court, the two sides in this increasingly bitter dispute will have plenty of chances to argue it out.

The term itself is part of the problem. John Varian, a hand surgeon from Blackrock Clinic in Dublin, says that most patients show no injury, no strain and often no repetitive movements either. "The term is very emotive and very useful for those making claims," he says. "It is used by unions, lawyers and plaintiffs to cover anything that causes pain."

In his experience, covering more than 600 patients, a third are suffering a genuine physical condition, another third have pain from arthritis that has nothing to do with work, and a further third have pain of psychological origin. "One doesn't like to use the term mass hysteria," he says. "But the epidemic-like spread of RSI can sometimes look rather like that. A naturally anxious person, told at work about the dangers, is likely to develop symptoms."

Another surgeon says plainly: "There is no such thing as RSI. When you examine patients there's nothing to find, there's nothing physically

■ Is repetitive strain injury real, or is the term itself the trouble? With more cases in the offing, judges will not have an easy time

wrong. RSI is a slick phrase, dreamed up in Australia," Mr Varian and that surgeon exclude the recognised condition of tenosynovitis, in which the sheath around a tendon becomes inflamed, from their strictures about RSI.

Dr Peter Buckle, head of the ergonomics research unit at Surrey University, agrees that the term RSI can mislead: he prefers "work-related upper limb disorders". "It can affect anywhere from the finger to the elbow, and which part of the system goes down for any individual is a bit problematic," he says. "But are we going to say that because we can't see it, it doesn't exist? I think this was a very, very poor judgment, and it smacks to me of an attempt to sit on the whole issue and discourage people from going to court."

The judge's remark that "eggshell personalities" were prone to complain of RSI was taken up by Ian Galer, an ergonomist from Loughborough University, who said that stress and the social psychology of work could play a role in the condition. "In a disorder as diffuse as this, there are likely to be a number who are playing up and simply seeking compensation," he says. "There are others in whom it is related to physical activity at work, and others where it is related to stress. But I'm not saying any form is any less real than any other."

The British Orthopaedic Association was asked for advice by the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council, and concluded that with the exception of writer's cramp and tenosynovitis, there were no further

types of RSI that could be "unambiguously defined both clinically and pathologically".

Fraser Whitehead, a partner in Russell, Jones and Walker, the London firm of solicitors which represents some 200 plaintiffs, said: "RSI is a fact, the damage it does is permanent, and the government must address the problem. Where's the research? Industrial deafness was ignored in the 1950s, now we have thousands of pensioners who are deaf because employers wouldn't spend a few pence on ear protectors."

He said that he was worried that such an important case should have been handled by a judge of "inappropriate seniority". Judge Prosser's remarks about eggshell personalities was, he said, irrelevant.



Shoot-leavers bound for offices face an on-screen future

## Legislators struggle to keep up with technology

By Lin Jenkins

THE pace of technological advances, which by 2000 will see a computer terminal on the desk of almost every office worker, has put legislators in a spin.

Employers have until the end of 1996 to comply with legal requirements designed to protect office workers from muscular skeletal problems, upper limb disorders and various problems caused by posture.

Once, the speed of progress allowed rules to protect a workforce to be concurrent, now regulations can only be based on the position in retrospect.

The Health and Safety Executive, along with the rest of the EC, accepts that there are injuries which can be sustained by working with display screen equipment. For the first time this year employers have a legal obligation towards the seven million employees who use screens.

The cost of implementing the new rules is estimated at £294 million, or £40 per work station. New systems introduced since the beginning of this year have to comply with the rules, while existing sys-

tems have until the end of 1996 to reach the agreed standard.

The regulations control both the equipment and the working environment. Screens must display legible, well-spaced characters at a sufficient size and clarity without glare or excessive flickering. The contrast between the characters and background must be capable of constant adjustment by the operator. The screen and the keyboard must be mobile so the operator can move them at will.

Those using terminals must be able to move about at will. They are no longer allowed to be locked into one position but must be able to vary their movement to reduce the likelihood of repetitive movements.

The keyboard surface must be of a matt finish to reduce glare and there are specific requirements regarding the levels of noise, heat and space under which a person can be expected to work.

A spokesman for the Health and Safety Executive said: "The rules allow for horses for courses. What is suitable for one person is not necessarily the same as what will be required for another. The

rules give guidelines on how they should be implemented, but the situation can vary for person to person."

"The rules are laid in terms which a layman might think is rusty language, but that is because of the changing technology."

Employers also have obligations regarding the seating and posture of those working at a screen. The seat must be adjustable in height, give lumbar support, swivel and put no excess pressure on the thigh or back of knee. Foot supports must be made available and there should be no obstacles under the desk.

The working position must allow the forearms to be horizontal and allow for free movement of the wrists. The height and angle of the screen must allow the operator to have "comfortable head position".

The operator must also have enough room to put his or her hands elsewhere between bouts of keying.

For the first time employers have a legal obligation to carry out a formal risk assessment in respect of white collar workers.

### Violence halts Punch and Judy

A PUNCH and Judy man has been forced to abandon his show because of violence from children.

Len Belmont, a grandfather, said: "Children are getting more and more violent, and I blame today's computer games and television."

"I've stopped doing the show because the story doesn't seem to matter anymore — they just want the violence."

"Once I got into my Punch and Judy tent I never knew what was going to happen. The kids threw all sorts of things at me and my puppets, including old drink cartons, cans, and ice creams." His puppets will now be sold.

Mr Belmont, of Hackney, east London, said: "Children today just aren't prepared to watch a show like mine. They prefer violent video and computer games. The whole point of a video game is violence, zapping people with machine guns, pushing others over cliffs or ripping their heads off."

He said fellow entertainers from around the country were experiencing similar trouble.

"A friend who is a puppeteer was struck by a shovel wielded by a kid as he performed a Punch and Judy show. Some of the behaviour is appalling."

Mr Belmont plans to carry on doing children's shows as long as he can see his audience. "I felt so vulnerable in the Punch and Judy tent because I didn't know what the little horrors might do."

### Witness met accused in woods

A TEENAGER told the Old Bailey yesterday how he found accused murderer Sandra Wignall shaking and shouting after the knife attack which killed her husband.

Richard Vinnicombe, 19, his brother Stephen and friend Nathan Burkin also passed two men when walking through Sayes Wood, Surrey, just minutes before finding Mrs Wignall, the court heard.

Her husband Bob, 55, was stabbed three times and battered around the head during the attack in the woods on September 5 last year.

Mrs Wignall, 48, of Addlestone, Surrey, claimed three youths set about her husband in an unprovoked attack. But the court was earlier told that she lured him into the woods and her lover Terence Bewley, 42, and Harold Moul, 43, killed him.

Mr Vinnicombe told the court: "We came across her in a clearing. She was moving around backwards and forwards. She was not saying anything. She saw us. First of all she said 'Stay away', then something like 'Stay away, stay back'."

"She told us her husband had been attacked. She said he was attacked by three blokes who had asked her if they had seen a dog."

Mr Vinnicombe told the court that they had earlier passed two men on the path.

Mrs Wignall, Mr Bewley, of Ruislip, west London, and Mr Moul, of Birmingham, all deny murder.

The trial continues.

### Women's pay still 20% behind men

WOMEN still earn 20 per cent less than men on average and lag behind in pension settlements, benefit payments and training opportunities, a conference was told yesterday.

Valerie Amos, chief executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said the problems were often magnified in rural areas.

Ms Amos told the equal opportunities conference in Inverness that 87 per cent of Britain's five million part-time workers were women, many of whom did not pay national insurance and were not entitled to unemployment or sickness payments.

"Twenty years after the Equal Pay Act, women's

full-time earnings are, on average, 79 per cent of men's. When we look at part-time work it can be as low as 55," she said.

Because of anomalies during their working lives, women's pensions could be half of those that were paid to men.

"When you take all the inequalities together, women can earn on average a third of what men earn during their lifetime. It adds up to a picture of women living in greater poverty in later life."

Ms Amos said women in rural areas faced extra problems: the lack of child care, poor transport and limited training opportunities.

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## US-style warehouse clubs will cut prices by up to 30%

By Ian Murray

BRITAIN'S cut-price warehouse clubs will be up to 30 per cent cheaper than high street shops when they open to a restricted public from the end of next month.

By the turn of the century there could be up to 90 of these American-style clubs across the country, forcing retailers in every sector to hold down prices and improve services in order to compete. Although only a relatively small number of people will be eligible for membership, and the clubs are expected to take no more than 2 per cent of all retail business, analysts are predicting that the warehouses' influence will be felt in every high street and shopping centre.

The first club will open on November 30 at Thurrock, Essex, in a warehouse the size of a football pitch. It will be run by the American company Costco. The British cash and carry chain Nurdin and Peacock opens the second one at Croydon, south London, on March 15 and, before the end of next year, there are likely to be others at Bushey, Hertfordshire, and in Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham.

Customers at the warehouses will find themselves shopping in spartan conditions with a limited choice of about 3,500 lines, but they will all be major brand names backed by a full guarantee.

Just who is eligible to join remains a secret of the warehouse companies, although the American experience

■ The first British cut-price warehouse club opens next month. Experts believe the impact will be felt up and down the land

shows that high-income professional groups, civil servants and retailers are most likely to be invited to join. Costco has been busy approaching various groups for months and, since the High Court ruling clearing the way for its Thurrock development this week, applications have been pouring into the headquarters in Watford, Hertfordshire.

Paul Moulton, head of the European operation, was reticent about the size of the discount that would be available to club members buying in bulk at the warehouse. However, a survey by Goldman Sachs of Costco's American operation found that the warehouses there had a 9 per cent gross profit margin, and the bank understands that the company is aiming at a similar level here.

Gross profit margins in British food stores are about 25 per cent, in electrical goods shops nearer 30 per cent, and do-it-yourself stores have a 40 per cent mark-up. That means that items such as televisions or computers are likely to sell for about 20 per cent less than in the high street.

Goldman Sachs expects that there will ultimately be about 90 warehouse clubs in Britain, each serving a population of between 250,000 and 500,000. Philip Dorgan, of Goldman

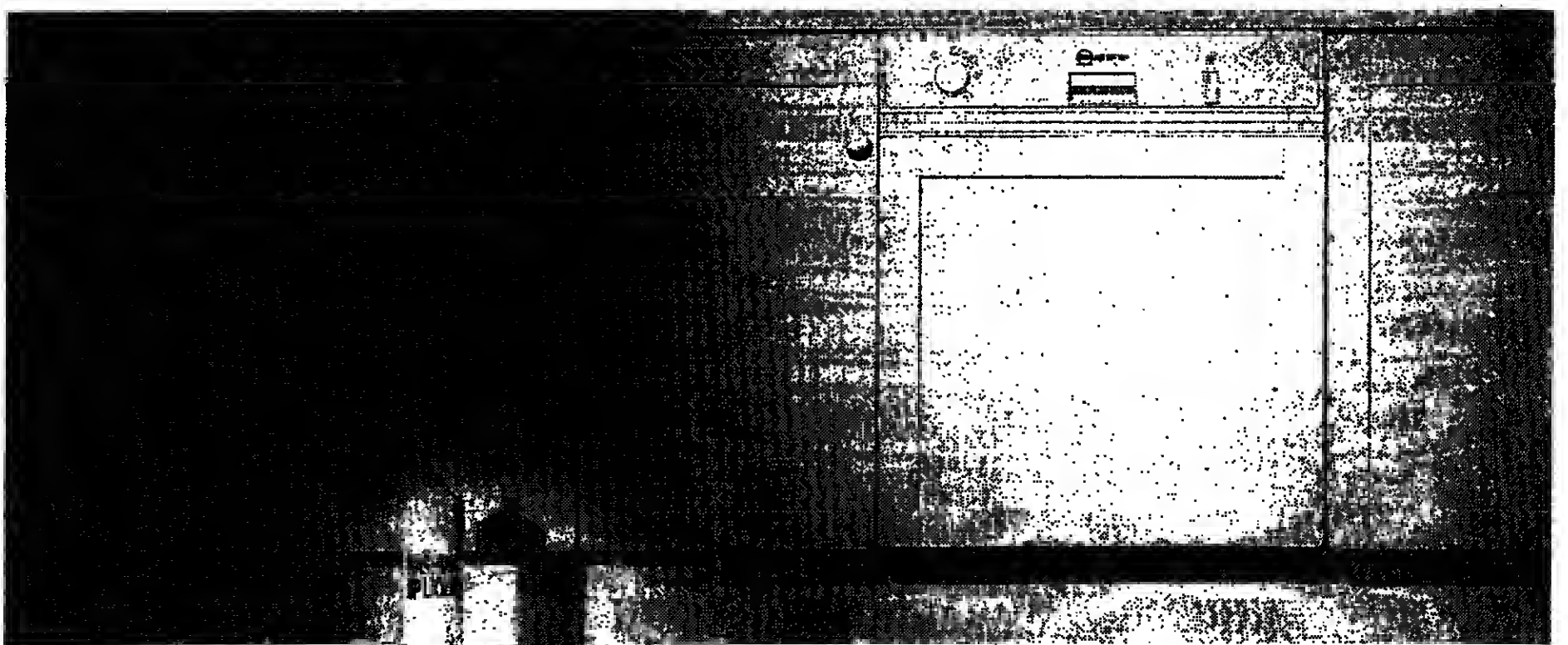
Sachs, said: "This must be excellent news for the customer. The warehouses keep their overheads down by providing no services at all, so the best way shops can compete with prices is to provide better service. That's not difficult in Britain because most shops here provide no service whatever at the moment."

Dr John Beaumont, chief executive of the Institute of Grocery Distributors, is less worried about the impact on the food trade than on the high street. He said: "A big chain store will have around 17,000 lines available, while the warehouse only has 3,500, covering everything from clothes and stereos to yoghurt. I don't believe the customer will get the kind of choice he wants. But nobody knows. It is all very exciting."



A no-frills Costco warehouse in Boston, Massachusetts, where goods are piled high and sold cheap. The 3,500 lines are all brand names

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Daughter saved from bonfire

A 12-year-old girl was recovering yesterday after being pulled from a blazing bonfire by her mother.

Carla Norman was playing "dens" with two friends inside the 12 ft-high pile of wood in Plymouth when someone threw in a banger and it caught fire.

The two other girls managed to scramble clear but Carla was trapped. Linda Norman, 42, alerted by neighbours, braved the flames to grab her daughter's foot — "all I could see" — and pull her clear seconds before the bonfire collapsed.

#### Death charge

A Thames Valley police sergeant, Stephen William Hullah, 36, was sent for trial by magistrates at Newbury accused of causing the death of a 27-year-old man by dangerous driving while at the wheel of an armed response vehicle.

#### Dog roasted

Police are hunting a man who cut the head off a dog and spit-roasted the animal over a fire in front of a crowd of children on waste ground at Stratford, east London.

#### Soccer death

Rhian Davis, a 30-year-old mother from Clifnydd, Mid Glamorgan, collapsed and died while training with the Tongwynlais ladies' football team.

#### Double ordeal

A 33-year-old agoraphobic on the first trip outside his home for a year was knifed and beaten by a gang of youths in Bristol. They escaped with £5.

#### Family show

Paintings and sculptures by six generations of the Constable family are to go on show at Millfield School, Street, Somerset.

#### OFT looks into price fixing by solicitors

By Frances Gibb  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is investigating complaints by members of the public that some solicitors are fixing conveyancing prices at minimum levels.

Sir Bryan Cursberg, director-general of the office, told solicitors at their annual conference in Brighton yesterday that although the OFT had no power under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1971 to make such an investigation, there was a possibility that it had powers to do so under other legislation.

"One of the most serious competition offences is the establishment of pricing cartels... with the objective of creating a position of market power to the detriment of the consumer," he said. Sir Bryan questioned whether consumers put such great emphasis on price. They also wanted high standards of service.

The OFT move comes amid widespread concern among many solicitors that some of their colleagues are offering conveyancing services so cheaply that they are jeopardising quality.

Roder Pannone, president of the Law Society, gave a warning in his opening speech on Thursday about the dangers of price-cutting by solicitors, and there have been calls in recent months, resisted by the Law Society, to return to set or scale fees for conveyancing work.

The latest research by the Law Society has found that on a £60,000 house, one in ten solicitors charged less than £200 (excluding VAT and disbursements) and 38 per cent less than £250.

Walter Merricks, assistant secretary general at the Law Society, said the society did not condone the fixing of minimum prices.

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## Welcome end to a hard road

If the measure to allow women to be ordained priests in the Church of England was a human marathon runner, then last week he (or she) "hit the wall". The phrase describes the agonising feelings that come about three-quarters of the way through the course, when the body has depleted all its reserves. From that point on the race is run on willpower and discipline.

When, nearly a year ago, General Synod voted to allow women priests, a certain delay was expected. The procedure was well known, the measure having to wend its tedious, but necessary, way through the ecclesiastical committee of parliament, the House of Commons and the House of Lords before gaining the Royal Assent.

Few expected the announcement last month that the Church Society, a conservative evangelical group within the Church of England, would appeal to the High Court to disallow synod's vote on the grounds that it was not competent to decide upon such matters. Last week the application was dismissed, the judges ruling that the General Synod did indeed have the power and the right to decide

### Credo

Christina Rees

upon "all things touching the Church of England".

The hearing, spread over three days, was conducted in a very unemotional, detached manner. All the words spoken by the judges and those involved contrasted sharply with the experiences of the women whose future lay in their hands. During those three days, women deacons and many of their supporters "hit the wall", suffering the anguish of coming so far only to be hit by the uncertainty brought about by the 11th hour challenge.

Yesterday, the House of Commons debated the measure and gave it its support. On Tuesday, the upper house is expected to do the same. Now there is a feeling of numbness, of exhaustion at the time and energy spent on endless debates, arguments, doubts, hopes and expectations. The Church, by an overwhelming majority, has welcomed the anticipation of women priests, and now it needs to stop. It needs

to stop the second guessing, which is so debilitating and demoralising, and with humility and charity declare an armistice and get on with its real work.

There is much in the Church's tradition about what Christians are enjoined to do, in which intricate strife plays no part at all. The New Testament shows a God who went to the ultimate length to communicate love, acceptance, forgiveness and new life. As a church, we have spent enough time considering this issue, and the way ahead seems clear, if still unacceptable to some.

Many years of prayerful and obedient debate produced the result last November, and now the measure has been thoroughly weighed in the balance and found not wanting. Let there be no more obstacles put in its way. To all who have been caught up in the fray, I recommend a time of peace and quiet. The One who said: "Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden", still speaks to everyone who will listen, whatever their view.

Christina Rees is a member of the General Synod of the Church of England.

## MPs back women priests 215-21

By ALICE THOMSON,  
JONATHAN PRYNN  
AND ROBERT MORGAN

CAMPAIGNERS for the ordination of women priests in the Church of England cleared their last big hurdle with an overwhelming victory in the House of Commons yesterday. On a free vote, the Commons backed the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure by 215 votes to 21.

If, as is almost certain, the House of Lords approves the measure next Tuesday, the issue will return to the General Synod for formal endorsement next February with the first women priests expected to be ordained next April. MPs also backed, by 195 votes to 19, plans for compensation for priests who feel they have to leave the Church on doctrinal grounds.

During an impassioned debate, opponents of the measure made clear that they were not anti-women and their objections were based on doctrinal grounds.

John Gummer, the environment minister and passionate opponent of the proposals, said that if the measure were passed some members of the Church, like him, would feel that they had been excluded from the Church of England. Mr Gummer, the son of a



Tony Benn, right, accused John Gummer and others of prejudice against women



clergyman and a former member of the General Synod, said that he was agnostic about the ordination of women, but claimed that the General Synod had no right to take a unilateral decision. Mr Gummer, speaking from the back benches, said that many people would be forced out of the church. He accused the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, of displaying arrogance in saying that hundreds

of his predecessors were wrong and he was right. "I find that difficult to accept," he said.

The sober and occasionally intense atmosphere that marked the opening of the debate was broken by a scathing speech from Tony Benn, the MP for Chesterfield, who mocked the "absolutely invalid" arguments of the measure's opponents. He said Mr Gummer's speech "must have been made hundreds of times over many hundreds of years" against other proposed reforms, such as the admission of Jews and Roman Catholics to Parliament.

"At the heart of this debate, however much it is dressed up in ecclesiastical terms, is a prejudice against women — that they are not human beings," Mr Benn said. The debate exposed the "absurdity" of the Church of England as the established church of the state.

He poured scorn on the proposal to provide compensation to male priests who objected to women ordination. It would have been like compensating him when Margaret Beckett had been elected deputy leader of the Labour party.

Simon Hughes, Liberal

Democrat MP for Southwark and Bermondsey and a former member of the Synod, said: "If we support this measure it will be a great day of liberation, not just for women in the Church, not just for the nation, but for the cause which all Christians are here to serve."

Ann Widdecombe, junior employment minister, who has now joined the Roman Catholic Church because of her opposition to women priests, said that women had a valid but different role from men in the church.

"The Queen, after all, is the head of the Church of England and there are women deacons," she said. She also did not see any reason why there should not be women as Catholic papal nuncios.

But in an emotive speech she said that if women were allowed to give the sacrament, "and be a representative of Christ then you might as well have males representing the Virgin Mary in nativity plays".

Miss Widdecombe, who was wearing a crucifix, said she had felt "driven out" when she left to join Catholicism, but she denied bitterness towards the Church of England.

"It is utter grief and utter anger — and utter disbelief at what's been going on, that we've not only managed to consecrate bishops who don't believe in the Resurrection and the virgin birth, but we now actually can't even get our moral message across."

Those voting against women's ordination were: David Atkinson (C Bournemouth E); Andrew Bower (C Brighton Kempston); John Carlisle (C Luton N); Paul Channon (C Southend W); Patrick Cormack (C Staffordshire S); John Gummer (C Suffolk Coastal); Andrew Hume (C Basingstoke); Robert Jones (C Hertfordshire W); Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C Lancaster); Timothy Kirkhope (C Leeds NE); Edward Leigh (C Gainsborough & Horncastle); Piers Merchant (C Beckenham); Anthony Nelson (C Chichester); Sir Michael Neuber (C Romford); The Rev Ian Paisley (DUP Antrim N); Peter Robinson (DUP Belfast E); William Ross (UUP Londonderry E); Nigel Waterson (C Eastbourne); Ann Widdecombe (C Maidstone); Sir Jerry Wiggin (C Weston-super-Mare); Ann Winterton (C Conington).

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At Your Service  
Weekend, page 11

## Queen urges respect for the Red Cross

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen yesterday called on those involved in armed conflicts to recognise the impartiality and independence of the Red Cross and its counterpart in the Islamic world, the Red Crescent.

Addressing a Birmingham conference of the organisations, she deplored the disregard for the Geneva conventions that had led to the deaths of dedicated workers. The sanctity of the movement's emblems, and the freedom of its workers to operate must be respected. The

Queen, who did not name specific cases, was clearly referring to the recent deaths of humanitarian workers in former Yugoslavia and Africa. Since 1985 the movement has lost 45 workers on active service.

"Within this movement, you have no truck with that depressing and cynical phrase 'compassion fatigue', the Queen told 500 delegates from 160 countries. "On the contrary, the human and material resources you devote to the relief of hardship grows greater each year."

Letters, page 17

### THE TIMES DILLONS DEBATE

#### Will women priests split the Church?



THE Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Richard Haines, and Karen Armstrong, for seven years a Roman Catholic nun, and author of the controversial new book *The End of Silence, Women and Priesthood*, will speak in support of women priests in this important debate. Challenging them will be Ann Widdecombe, MP, and Father Martin Flatman, vicar of Cowley St John, Oxford, both of whom are leading critics of the decision to ordain women priests.

The debate takes place on Monday, November 8 at 7.30pm, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Times readers can obtain tickets (£10, concessions £5) either by completing the coupon below, calling at Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1, or telephoning Dillons on 071-915 6612 (24 hours).

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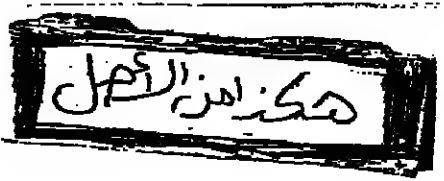
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SIZE, IT SEEMS, IS NOT IMPORTANT.

For two years running, the British Sausage Appreciation Society has chosen a Parkinson for its Best Branded Sausage Award. Last year



it was the Banger. This year it's the smaller, but still perfectly filled Chipolata. So no, it's not a question of size. It's simply a matter of taste.





This will put paid to the old theory, "you can't indulge in a bit of real driving if you're sitting in the lap of luxury."

It's the Lexus GS300. Road and Track said it, "packs all the luxury of the (Lexus) LS400 into a smaller, sportier package."

There's the description, now for the proof. First the luxury half of the equation. How well equipped is the Lexus GS300?

Automatic air conditioning? Yes. Cruise control? Yes. Leather interior? Naturally. A nine speaker stereo system with CD

auto-changer? Yes. Five way electronic seat adjustment? Of course.

In fact, the GS300 has so much as standard, there are only two optional extras.

Pretty much the reverse of most competing luxury cars, wouldn't you say? (It even has the best 3 year 60,000 mile manufacturer's warranty in its class.)

And then there's the driving. Its 6 cylinder, 3 litre, 24 valve, fuel injected engine produces over 200 bhp.

It has stabiliser bars to check body

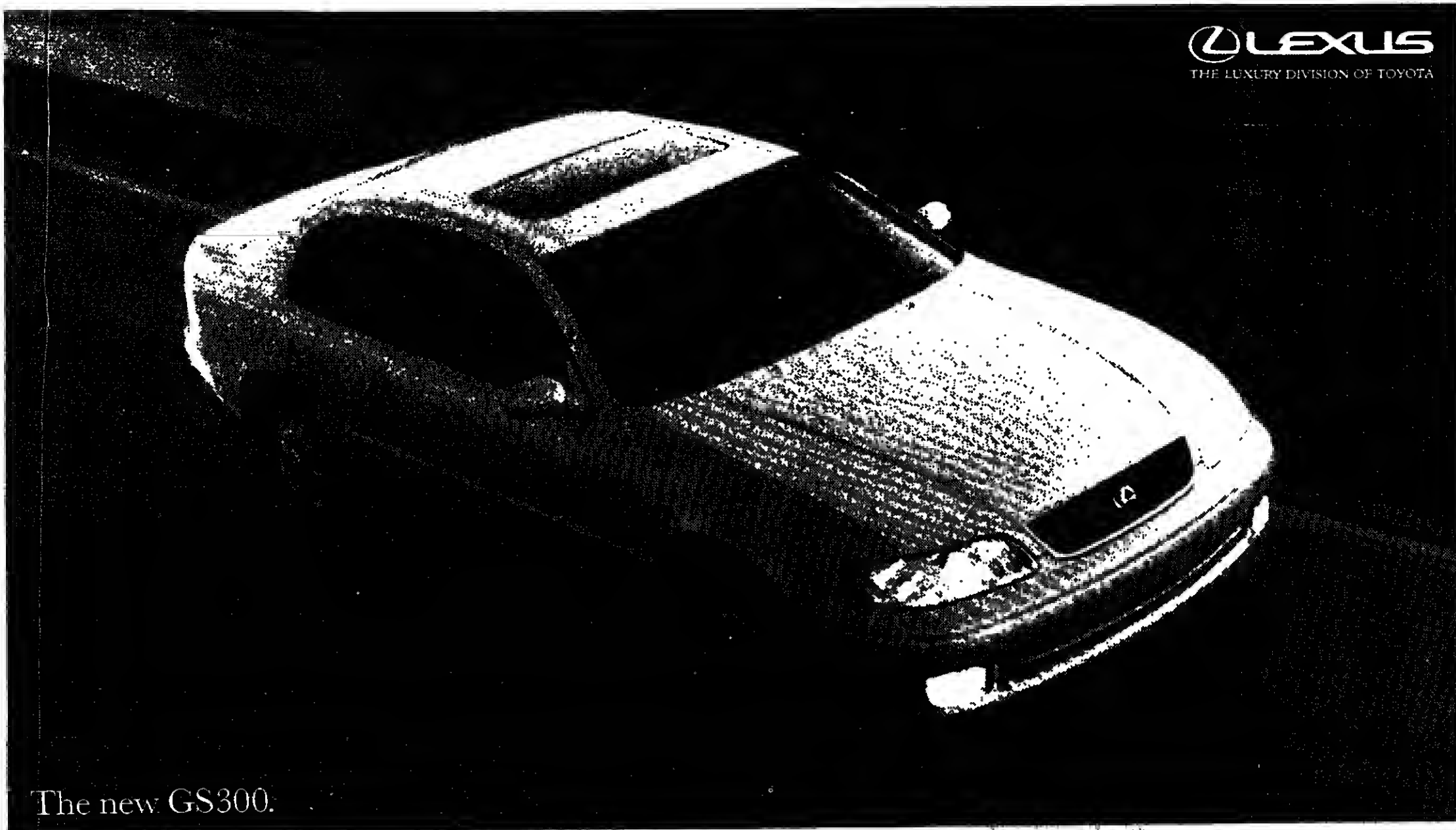
roll. (Incidentally, specially sculptured seats check the other kind of body roll.)

And should you get the urge to test the laws of physics, there's double wishbone suspension. Tested, refined and tuned to hold a steady course over some of Europe's most challenging roads.

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animal instincts.



## Prime minister and Delors offer European summit different visions of economic future

## EC is losing touch with its citizens, says Major

By Philip Webster and George Brock

JOHN Major called yesterday for cuts in European interest rates as he criticised the European Community for failing to produce policies to boost growth and reduce unemployment.

The prime minister urged the EC to abandon its more ambitious designs and to concentrate on issues relevant to its people. Mr Major said that at times in recent years the EC may have moved too far ahead of public opinion. "As a result we have not carried people fully with us. But as far as growth and unemployment are concerned, we are lagging behind them. That is what they are most worried about."

However, Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, said that EC governments should boost their economies while sticking to the targets that the Maastricht treaty lays down for monetary union. M Delors said it was "a necessity to stimulate investment without undermining adjustment policies in each country."

M Delors admitted that the "majority" of EC economies were no longer converging towards monetary union but

diverging, and said that it was time to stop the drift with bold initiatives. His presentation included several angry asides at the tepid reaction which EC finance ministers have given to his ideas for creating growth and jobs. Britain, he said, was "coming out of recession". The ministers will consider the draft of M Delors's economic "white paper" next month, ahead of its unveiling at the next EC summit in December.

In a strikingly personal passage of his speech to the summit, Mr Major underlined his European credentials by stating that, since the last summit in Copenhagen in June, he had "put my government's future on the line to secure the ratification of the Maastricht treaty".

He added: "We have to show our peoples that we are collectively addressing their needs. We need their consent and we need their support. And their highest need is to see all Europe moving out of recession."

The EC's share of world markets had declined by about a fifth since 1980, he added. If they had been as good at creating jobs as other industrial nations over the same period, there would be nine million more people at work in the Community today. As expected, Mr Major and other leaders succeeded in sending for reappraisal the sweeping proposals outlined by M Delors to the council of finance ministers.

M Delors recently has altered his previously lukewarm support for a trade deal and has begun to signal to France that it is vital to restart economic growth. Britain fears that his programme will make Europe less, rather than more, competitive.

Kohl takes lead, page 1  
Leading article, page 17



Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, arriving at the EC summit in Brussels in a Belgian police car yesterday after fog grounded his flight

## Germans carry off the central bank plum

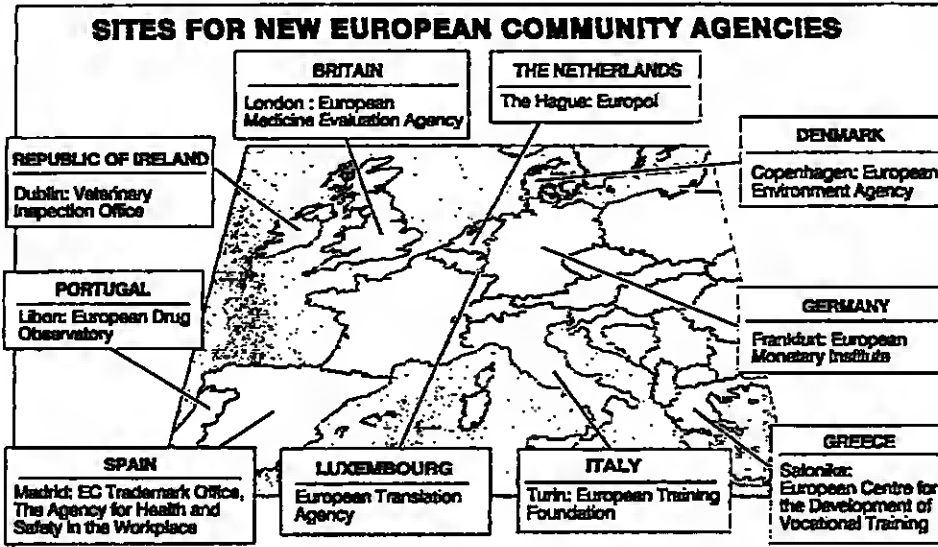
By Our Foreign Staff

BRITAIN has lost the fight to win the prestigious new European central bank for London.

However, a consolation prize of an important new drugs agency may bring thousands of jobs to the country. The European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMEA), which will register new pharmaceuticals in London on behalf of the EC, was described as very good news. "Three hundred new jobs will be directly created, with possibly thousands more indirectly," a government spokesman said.

As expected, Frankfurt won the plum award in a carve-up of new EC institutions yesterday at the Brussels summit. Britain had been bidding for the central bank, the medicines agency and the plant breeders' rights office.

However, British government officials knew there was no real chance of London getting the European Monetary Institute (and future European central bank). Other



member states were determined that a government with no commitment to the goal of a single currency should not be responsible for its introduction by 1999. Nevertheless, Mr Major went in to bat in Brussels, insisting that London remained the finan-

cial hub of Europe and was the natural home of the organisation. The institute will start work on January 1, clearing the way for EC nations to seek economic convergence.

These will be quality jobs in high-technology manufacturing. All the big pharmaceutical companies wanted this headquarters to be in London, and the health secretary, Virginia Bottomley, has worked long and hard for this," a government official said. In

fact, the medicines agency was not easily netted by the prime minister.

There were heated exchanges at the summit table with the Spanish prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, who wanted the agency to go to Barcelona.

But with other member states falling into line behind Britain, Spain had to settle for the new Community trade marks office to be established in Madrid — with the added bonus of a health and safety administration office also to go to Spain.

Dublin gets a new joint veterinary and plant breeders' rights office. Lisbon gets a drug observatory, and Copenhagen gets the new European environmental agency.

Europol, the data-gathering EC body which will co-ordinate new cross-border police co-operation under the Maastricht treaty, goes to The Hague.

The summit was called principally to launch the European Union, which comes into effect on Monday.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Pentagon to review nuclear policy

Washington: The Pentagon has announced what Les Aspin, the defence secretary, called the most comprehensive review of America's nuclear weapons policies ever undertaken (Martin Fletcher writes).

It will reassess the principle of "mutually assured destruction" that underpinned US nuclear strategy throughout the Cold War and will decide whether the US nuclear arsenal should remain targeted on specific sites in the former Soviet Union or be targeted elsewhere; how much of the arsenal should be kept on alert; whether the US should adopt a policy of "no first use" of nuclear weapons in a conventional conflict; and whether the force of long-range missiles, submarines and bombers is correctly structured to meet emerging threats.

## Burundi flight

Geneva: The UN says more than half a million people have fled Burundi since the coup attempt last week in which President Ndayize and a third of his cabinet were killed. The coup failed when the country's generals backed the government. (Reuters)

## Media court

Moscow: President Yeltsin ordered a special court to be set up to ensure the independence of the press and equal access to the media for all candidates in Russia's first post-Communist parliamentary elections, scheduled to be held in six weeks. (Reuters)

## Lost child plea

Athens: The British embassy here has formally asked the Greek authorities to extend their investigation into the sale of children to include the case of Ben Needham, the missing Sheffield boy who disappeared in July 1991 on the eastern Aegean island of Kos.

## Five charged

Stockholm: Four Russians and a Polish immigrant have been charged with trying to kidnap Peter Wallenberg, a Swedish businessman. The men were also charged with forgery and smuggling military equipment in a plot to extort £6.5 million. (AP)

## Royal rooms

Florence: The Royal Apartments of the Pitti Palace are open to the public after seven years of restoration work. Organisers of the new, permanent exhibition believe they have accurately recreated the furnishing and decorations of the 14 rooms as they were in 1911.

## Leader at front

Tbilisi: Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, flew to Kutaisi, the main city in the west of the country, after his troops said they had won back ground lost to rebels loyal to Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president. (Reuters)

## Grand canyon

Tucson: A team from the University of Arizona that mounted the first scientific exploration of Tibet's Namche Barwa canyon said that, with a maximum depth of 19,386ft, it sets a world record. Arizona's Grand Canyon is 4,682ft deep. (AP)

## Gaullist leader voices French resentment against Britain

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

FRENCH frustration over Britain's attitude to the European Community and world trade boiled over yesterday with a personal attack on John Major by Alain Juppé, the foreign minister.

"John Major, who trembles before the ex-Iron Lady Maggie Thatcher, cannot find any better way of stiffening his courage than insulting our peasant farmers and the French in general," M Juppé said.

The minister, who is also secretary-general of the ruling Gaullist party, was explaining to his Paris constituents why France must be prepared to stand together in the face of world opprobrium over its refusal to accept the terms of the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The government and opposition Socialist party are depicting the accord as an Anglo-

Saxon conspiracy to destroy French agriculture. Mr Major has angered President Mitterrand and Edouard Balladur, the prime minister, with his support for the American position in the GATT talks and caused special perplexity this month when he said that Britain's goal was to see the EC evolve into a loose free-trade zone — the antithesis of the federal union which France desires.

"We must be aware that this double refusal will expose us to criticism and attack," M Juppé wrote in his constituency newsletter. "Faced with these assaults, we must maintain our national unity."

M Juppé's call was a response to growing scepticism over the wisdom of France's solitary defiance of the world. □ New York: Britain and France have launched their first formal rear-guard action

to preserve their permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council (James Bone writes).

They have joined Germany, which aspires to join the council, to submit a draft resolution on council changes to the president of the General Assembly. The draft proposes the creation of a working group open to all UN members on the question of the composition of the 15-nation council. But it pointedly directs the group to study enlarging the council, rather than reform, which could encompass removing some of the permanent members. The draft will now be studied by a special contact group which is looking at changes to the security council.

The proposal is the first shot across the bows of those who would like to unseat Britain and France.



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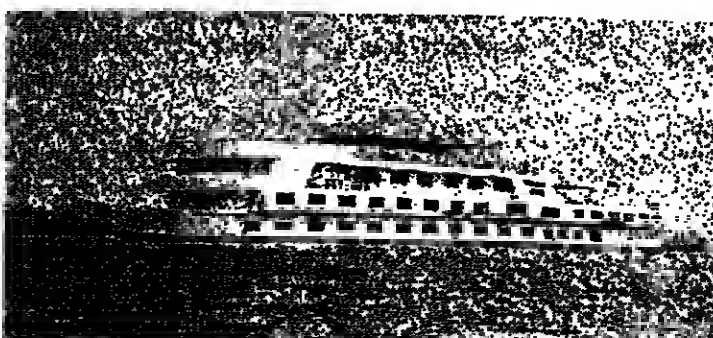
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## Quebec's English-speakers take fright at plan for independence referendum

# Opposition sets 1995 as target date for break-up of Canada

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN MONTREAL

THE Bloc Québécois, the party likely to form the official opposition in Canada's new parliament, will work to bring about independence for Quebec, and thus the break-up of Canada, "as soon as possible", according to Lucien Bouchard, the party's leader.

"Federalism has not worked for the past 20 or 30 years," Mr Bouchard said in an interview. He hopes to achieve self-rule for French-speaking Quebec by 1995. "There is a profound need for change... the choice is between the status quo, with its inefficiencies and inequities, a social and economic quagmire, or sovereignty," he said.

Last Monday Canadian voters gave Jean Chrétien's Liberals a majority and turned the Bloc Québécois into the opposition.

The next stage of the secession process, according to Mr Bouchard, is for the Parti Québécois, the provincial separatist movement under the

fiery Jacques Parizeau, to win next year's provincial elections in Quebec and hold a referendum on sovereignty in 1995.

A survey released on Thursday indicated that more than half the English-speaking citizens of Montreal (where 70 per cent of the Anglophones reside) would abandon an independent Quebec. Only 30 per cent said they would stay.

"We need them," Mr Bouchard said. "The English community has been very important. We need to blend the energy and resources of the two communities."

This is precisely the language traditionally used by Canadian federalists in their efforts to convince separatist Quebecers to stay within the national fold. The irony does not seem to disturb Mr Bouchard, a former Conservative cabinet minister and henchman of Brian Mulroney, the former prime minister. He defected in 1990 to set up the Bloc Québécois and immediately

earned an indelible reputation for opportunism.

Mr Mulroney, who left office to make way for the disastrous Kim Campbell last June, is reported to have issued instructions to his family that if Mr Bouchard appears at his funeral he is to be ejected.

Mr Bouchard, 54, is more a fixer than a rebel. "It is not possible to pave the road to sovereignty by raising hell," he said, having raised copious rhetorical hell in the election. His rhetoric is now about "equity". His role, he says, is to prepare Canada for Quebec's independence.

This softer approach may reflect a knowledge of the wide gap between the nationalist inclinations of French-speaking Quebecers and what they will tolerate in reality. Throughout Canada's history, French Quebecers have threatened to secede, but when it comes to a final vote, as in 1980, they draw back.



Lucien Bouchard, the Bloc Québécois leader, says federalism has not worked for 20 years and Canadians need to be prepared for Quebec's coming sovereignty

## Jews riot after masked Arabs kidnap settler

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

SCORES of irate Jewish settlers went on the rampage outside this Palestinian town yesterday after masked Arab gunmen attacked and abducted a resident from the nearby settlement of Bet El.

Israeli security forces launched a massive hunt for Haim Mizrahi, who was apparently stabbed at an Arab poultry farm where he went to buy eggs. Armed settlers blocked a highway, and set fire to two Arab cars and a building in the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Jalazoun.

"Settlers' blood is cheap," said Pinhas Wallerstein, a local Jewish leader. "We are now second-class citizens. They [the Arabs] feel why not carry out attacks? If it is done in Judea and Samaria [the biblical names for the West Bank], it is not important."

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, although it was widely assumed to be the work of Hamas, one of the radical groups opposed to the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

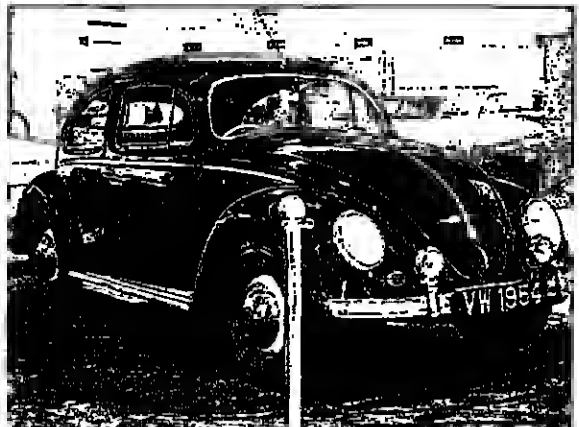
On Sunday the Hamas organisation abducted and murdered

two soldiers in the Gaza Strip, and vowed in a leaflet issued afterwards "to continue to crush Jewish skulls" in an attempt to torpedo the peace accord.

Yesterday's attack is bound to provoke further retaliation by the settlers, who fear that their security will be undermined when the occupied territories are transferred to Palestinian rule and security over Arab areas comes under the control of Palestinian police. They are also concerned that the government of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, is secretly planning to dismantle some settlements, particularly those near large Arab centres.

In an interview published yesterday, Shimon Shetret, the economics and planning minister, said: "If there are settlements in densely populated Arab areas, I don't think we can say that in the permanent solution it is in our interest to keep them."

London: The Foreign Office said yesterday that it had granted a PLO request to give official status to its London office, including permission to fly the Palestinian flag.



Volkswagen Beetle: people's car of the 1930s

## Lights change to red for city of Volkswagen

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WOLFSBURG

THE locals who file into Mario's café for a beer and a chat are sleepy and easily irritated, like bleary-eyed boxing fans whose favourite has been pummeled yet again in a prize fight.

The mood is similar throughout Wolfsburg, the town that lives and breathes Volkswagen. The traditionally gentle patronage of the carmaker has given way to the no-nonsense brutality associated with Detroit managers.

Either Volkswagen workers accepted a shorter working week (four days, 28.8 hours, 20 per cent lower wages and cuts in benefits, or they would be faced with 30,000 redundancies. Nobody has ever spoken in VW employees in this way before, and the whole idea of less work and less pay is close to revolutionary for German industry. Since March, when Volkswagen

since then the one-horse village has become a one-company town of 150,000 people. More than 40 per cent of them work at the factory; the rest, like Mario, are dependent in some way on the car firm.

Mario served his apprenticeship, saved money, and, with the help of a company loan, set up his small café. Volkswagen began to resemble a social welfare system. A job with Volkswagen was a job for life.

That has become the nub of the problem. The old patriarchal car companies of Europe are not lean or fit enough to fight off the Japanese competition.

Ferdinand Piech wanted to change all that. He took over the running of Volkswagen in January and immediately announced that Enemy Number One was Japan. Average labour

costs were a hefty DM46 (£18) an hour. Since German engineering was no longer enough to win the battle with Japan, the only way forward was to cut production costs. First he talked about more short-time work — 23,000 out of 59,000 Wolfsburg workers are on short time — but in the Volks-

wagen culture this was a rather mild process and many were laid off on 90 per cent of their last salary until they reach retirement age. That is what Herr Kohl meant when he said that Germany was becoming a leisure park.

Dr Piech has, as they say locally, petrol in his blood. His grandfather, Ferdinand Porsche, was one of the inventors of the Beetle. Dr Piech is committed to turning round the company within a year, but this could have a calamitous effect on Wolfsburg. If Volkswagen sinks into the mud, so does this model new town.



Porsche: one of the Beetle's inventors

German economic miracle are in trouble. Lufthansa, deep in the red, expects domestic passengers to pick up a sandwich in lieu of lunch, the once proud railway service is scrapping its restaurant cars and Mercedes is building a small car. To add to the hurt, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, has told his countrymen they are simply not working hard enough. But of all these German bastions, the greatest and most vulnerable is surely Volkswagen, the People's Car of the 1930s. The Wolfsburg plant was set up in 1938, and

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## Angola town's truce comes too late to lift pall of suffering

FROM SAM KILEY  
IN CUITO

ONCE a town of Portuguese charm, set off by palms and flaming lilies, Cuito is now a scene of staggering destruction.

Thousands of bombs and shells have destroyed most of the buildings and half the people during nine months of siege by the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) in this provincial Angolan capital. Lime trees lining the boulevards have been gnawed into stumps by bullets. Soldiers from Unita occupy most of the city, apart from a small enclave in the centre still held by the government. All civilians in the Unita districts were moved out for their own safety.

Yesterday the guerrillas stood with government soldiers in an uneasy ceasefire to allow the United Nations to deliver food to the 35,000 survivors of the months of shelling, bombing and starvation. The ceasefire, offered by Jonas Savimbi, Unita's leader, came too late for 30,000 civilians believed to have perished.

Whatever food gets into the city will be too late for most of the men lying on the floor of an old primary school which serves as Cuito's only hospital. Many of them have had limbs amputated without anaesthetic. Fifty out of 1,000 patients, including almost all amputees, have died in the last two

■ The stench of death fills the hospital in Cuito, a once charming town where half the population has been killed. Even the besieging Unita feels the madness must end

days as a result of gangrene. The stench of live people rotting fills the air of the hospital like poisonous smog. There are no antibiotics and no trained medical staff in the hospital. "We have 36 nurses, but they have no education. Our three doctors have a few years' training between them," said Abel Abrão, an Angolan journalist. Yesterday Elizabeth Geodora, 29, the city's only doctor,



Savimbi: election loss sparked new fighting

begged the international community to save those still alive in Cuito. Every day about five children die in a small clinic she runs using medical supplies dropped by parachute. "This has been a terrible experience. I hope I never have to see this again," Dr Geodora said, in a room filled with quietly whimpering children. The youngsters are in the last stages of starvation — when their bodies no longer have enough protein to absorb liquid and their lower limbs balloon until the skin splits.

"There is only one solution in Angola, and that is that we should talk," said Brigadier Jorge Diamantino, a local Unita commander. "This has all been very, very mad. These are all my people. My sister even lives on the other side," he said.

Cuito went 100 per cent to Unita in last year's elections during a 16-months pause in the 18-year civil war. But Dr Savimbi lost the elections as a whole and took his men back to the bush. The government responded by wiping out his people in most of the cities. Since then Angola has been dragged into an abyss.

## Pretoria general pledges army neutrality



Soldiers of the South African Defence Force on parade in Pretoria yesterday as General Kat Liebenberg handed command of the SADF to General Georg Meiring, saying the force was the only institution that could protect a new constitution (Our Foreign Staff

writes). "This defence force does not belong to the National Party, the Conservative Party or any party," he said. The Freedom Alliance, a coalition of white right-wingers and black homeland leaders, has appealed for more time to settle its differences with the other groups in

the constitutional talks. A series of meetings between the African National Congress and the government and between each of them and the Freedom Alliance has improved the possibility of completing an agreement within the multi-party forum which the alliance is boycotting.

The ANC believes the alliance members have not been able to agree among themselves what their actual demands are. China announced yesterday that it would resume official trade and economic ties with South Africa, suspended since July 1960.

## A child's coat. A child's life.



### Your old coat could save a life in Bosnia

Now it's not just bombs and bullets that are killing people in Bosnia. It's the cold.

Oxfam has just launched its Cold Front Appeal, for warm coats and jumpers to send to people in Bosnia, Serbia, Albania, Iraq, Afghanistan and the former Soviet Union.

Millions of people there have a bitter winter ahead. Battered by war, they face temperatures of -20°C without the clothing and shelter they need. Thousands — especially children — could freeze to death.

You can help. Oxfam's asking for your old, warm, wearable clothing: children's coats and jumpers, and adult coats. Take them to any Oxfam shop over the next two weeks, and we'll get them where they're needed — fast.

So please, give Oxfam that jumper your child's grown out of, or that coat you never liked. It could save a life.

**Oxfam's Cold Front Appeal**  
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### Storming of mosque provokes revolt

## Chinese security forces crush Muslim protests

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY, EAST ASIA EDITOR, IN HONG KONG

WITH a ferocity unmatched in China since the Tiananmen crackdown in June 1989, security forces have crushed a Muslim uprising involving thousands of protesters.

Soldiers and police later blocked trains and buses filled with enraged Muslims headed for Peking to protest against the security forces' violent actions. The chain of events began with what is already being called the "October 7 Incident" in Xining, the capital of Qinghai province in the far west. Witnesses interviewed in Peking said the violence centred on the storming of a mosque by police in which dozens were injured.

For weeks, reports have been coming out of China's vast western regions — in which 15 million of China's 20 million Muslims live — of riots, plane hijackings, assaults on mosques and arrests of leaders. Peking's Muslim spokesmen have described these events as "counter-revolutionary chaos" spread by a handful of "splittists" taking orders from abroad.

But in the October 7 Incident in Xining, a city of 700,000, witnesses said demonstrators numbered tens of thousands. It began when police tried to prevent the Muslim Anti-Humiliation Committee from leading a demonstration against what Muslims regarded as a sacrilegious publication, and attempted to raid the Dongguan

mosque in which the protesters were headquartered.

Enraged Muslims then tried to bring their protests to Peking on October 10. Hundreds of police blocked the tracks far to the west of the capital and diverted the buses. One bus is reported to have crashed, and when the passengers tried to ford a river nine drowned.

The authorities declared "public security bodies in Xining took normal coercive measures to deal with the key elements responsible for the lawbreaking". A local official concerned with "minority affairs" said: "Wherever there are Muslims, there is bound to be instability."

The protests began in August when many of China's Muslims, outraged at a notorious comic published in Tai-

wan showing praying Muslims and a pig, organised a protest in border regions.

The turmoil is a symptom of the historic ethnic instability that pits the majority Han (Chinese) population of more than one billion against 60 million "minorities", of which Muslims are the largest group. In the last five years, there have been increasingly violent clashes between soldiers and police and Muslims in Siquan and Shaanxi provinces, and in Qinghai and Xinjiang.

□ Peking: Corruption in China is now the worst since the Communist state was founded in 1949, according to Procurator-General Zhang Siquan, who said 5,040 officials had been charged with corruption in the first nine months of the year. (Reuters)



## Sun sets on the Japanese dream of soccer empire

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

Sporting Japan recoiled in stunned disbelief and retreated into deepest mourning last night when the nation's soccer team was knocked out of the Asian qualifying round for the 1994 World Cup in the final 30 seconds of its match against Iraq.

One evening sports paper framed its front page with a thick black border and led with the headline "Injury Time Nightmare".

Thousands of weeping young soccer fans were shown on the news sprawled on the pavements in front of giant outdoor television screens where minutes earlier they had been roaring over their expected victory and counting the final seconds in a frenzied scream of nationalistic pride.

One disgruntled fan, dressed as a chicken in a sailor suit, had already donned a black armband and sat swearing feebly into the night as his girlfriend wandered aimlessly among the bodies, walling and pulling at her hair.

Ginza, the nocturnal playground for Tokyo's armies of businessmen, presented a sad sight, crammed with tired and emotional salarymen, many of them still unwilling to believe that their team had failed and that, worse still, South Korea — a traditional rival in many fields — had pulled through to the final.

Their distress was matched in government ministries and corporate boardrooms across

Tokyo where businessmen, who had invested billions of yen from their corporate coffers, and mandarins who had invested their country's international image in the success of the soccer team, sat dumbfounded, seeing their dreams of hosting the 2002 World Cup vanish and their visions of Japan as the world's next international sporting giant obliterated.

Japan's meticulously laid plans to play in the final of the 1994 World Cup, and then to host the 2002 World Cup and soak up all the international spin-offs that come with staging such an important world sporting event, have been as much about leveraging Japan on to the international political stage as they have been about sport.

Anthony Shale, president of the Asian Football Confederation, said: "To government and football officials alike, the staging of the 2002 World Cup was as prestigious a national goal as getting a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council."

To ensure the success of the nation's football aims further, officials arranged for Ruy Ramos, a burly Brazilian striker, to be drafted on to the national team. He was even miraculously blessed with Japanese citizenship as soon as he had demonstrated his nimble footwork on the pitch.

حكمة من الامم



Home-owners pick through the wreckage as dry Santa Ana winds threaten more devastation

## Exhausted California fire crews fight for upper hand

FROM IAN BRODIE  
IN WASHINGTON

FIREFIGHTERS were racing to bring the last of the southern California brushfires under control yesterday before the hot desert winds that had fanned the devastating flames were due to spring up again after nightfall.

Fire officials said their exhausted crews, 15,000 strong, had gained the upper hand in most of the 15 fires that have blackened 185,000 acres, destroyed 640 homes and left 25,000 homeless in one of the area's worst firestorms this century. There were no deaths, but 32 people were hurt, three of them firefighters in critical condition.

Southern Californians are always irritated when reports of their fires concentrate on the threat to Hollywood celebrities, as if their fate was more important than others. For the record, no stars' homes were destroyed this time.

As hundreds of dazed people tearfully picked



through their ruined homes, from humble shacks to million-dollar mansions, there were forecasts that the dreaded dry Santa Ana winds would again come howling down the mountains from the east, bringing gusts that can whip the flames through tinder-dry sagebrush faster than a man can run.

The worst-hit area was the

beachfront resort and artists' colony of Laguna Beach, south of Los Angeles, where 310 homes were destroyed. "This used to be a beautiful tea service," Michael Orchowski said, as he uncovered one perfect china cup from the debris of what had been his living room. In the remnants of his study lay the ashes of 2,000 books on art and history.

"Of course, we will rebuild. What else can we do?" Determination to start all over again was widely expressed. Many in southern California refuse to give up their combustible combination of a warm climate and idyllic canyon settings. The hillsides are covered with chaparral that survives the drought by making its own oil and burns as fiercely as petrol when it catches light. Fires swept the region long before modern civilisation. Indian tribes called Los Angeles the Valley of the Smoke.

When the fires start, they unleash in arsonists a dark urge to see more excitement. Clues suggest that at least six of the latest blazes were started deliberately, including the one in Laguna Beach.

Although President Clinton has pledged low-interest federal loans for those who lost everything, the government's costs will be kept down because much of the damage was to homes covered by private insurance.



One house standing relatively unscathed among the 310 homes destroyed by fire in Laguna Beach, California

## Senator's diary of sex secrets chills Capitol Hill

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A SEX scandal involving the frank and salacious private diaries of one of its most senior members is tearing the US Senate apart.

Both Packwood, an Oregon Republican, is not only refusing to give the diaries to a committee investigating his long history of sexual harassment, but has said darkly that the sex lives of other senior congressmen are discussed in them. As Mae West once remarked: "Keep a diary and a diary will keep you."

On Monday, the ethics committee is forcing the Senate to vote on whether to seek a court order giving it access to Mr Packwood's 24-year chronicle of life on Capitol Hill.

Some members fear exposure. Others recoil from invading a colleague's privacy. But equally they dread rekindling the ire of the powerful women's movement that has barely subsided since the Senate rejected Anita Hill's allegations of sexual harassment against Clarence Thomas, the Supreme Court nominee. After Mr Thomas, Mr Packwood is feminism's number one villain. It was not always

so. Feminists once adored Mr Packwood for championing abortion rights and giving women senior positions on his staff. That changed last year when *The Washington Post* produced 23 women who said the 61-year-old senator had made coarse, uninvited sexual advances to them since 1969.

Mr Packwood is reported to have sought to discredit and intimidate his accusers, and he denied the charges until re-elected to a fifth six-year term last November. He then apologised for acting in ways that were "just plain wrong", but he refused to resign and the ethics committee began its investigation.

Mr Packwood disclosed the diaries' existence when he tried to use them in his defence, but he then clashed with the committee over what it could and could not see.

This week he and his lawyer accused the committee of seeking access to all 8,200 pages on the off-chance it would find something incriminating. They then let drop that the diaries raised, among other things, a senator's "extended affair with a staff member and the problems of his divorce" and an intimate relationship between a top congressional Democrat and a Senate aide.

Infuriated by these apparent threats, Richard Bryan, the committee's Democratic chairman, stunned Washington on Thursday by announcing that the diaries contained information suggesting that Mr Packwood may have been involved in criminal activities.

Mr Packwood has one unlikely ally. The American Civil Liberties Union says the committee's demand for the diaries violates his constitutional right to privacy. It was that same right that Mr Packwood invoked when championing a woman's right to choose an abortion.



Packwood: target of feminist movement

## US gives itself a nasty treat

FROM SARAH HARTLEY IN WASHINGTON

TOMORROW night Vice-President Gore and his wife, Tipper, will don fancy-dress costume, open their doors and give "Goo Goo clusters" to children trick or treating.

Halloween, however, has deteriorated into a night of heavy policing and curfews. Households failing to offer treats may find their cars spray-painted, windows smashed or gardens wrecked.

So concerned are the authorities in Chicago over the vulnerability of children on the streets that trick or treating has been banned. Church communities now organise alternative "family harvest parties", similar to British harvest festivals.

On All Hallows Eve, children tramp from door to door with plastic bags. Neighbours are repeatedly expected to open their doors and offer goodies to small children. Forced

good will is obviously too much for some people: there have been notorious cases of poisoned chocolates, arsenic on popcorn and razor-blades in apples.

Those opposed to the holiday are reviled as kill-joys. Halloween is harmless, according to Leo A. Rosenberg, a child psychologist at the Johns Hopkins Children's Centre. "Kids don't perceive witches as evil, and they don't perceive Halloween as a contest between good and evil."

Disguised or not, evil is alive and kicking in the US. According to a recent survey by Stephen Kaplan, founder of the Vampire Research Centre in New York, 650 of the world's 850 vampires live in North America. The Humane Society has a temporary ban on black cats being adopted in the face of evidence that some animals were sacrificed during satanic rituals last Halloween.

# A press ad, as seen on TV.

In our free market, advertisers need to draw attention to the virtues and benefits of their merchandise.

How else can we find out about new products that will improve our lifestyle, our health, our appearance, or our environment?

How else would we learn of offers that save us money, or new services which are just what we've needed?

At its best, advertising should be a service to the customer - an investment which not only benefits the advertiser, but the audience too.

In 1992, the amount spent in this country on advertising is estimated to have been £8.7 billion.

With a sum of such economic significance - given that we, the public, ultimately fund it - we have the right to expect that it is well spent.

How and where is it most wisely invested?

As with financial investments, there are plenty of ways to spend money and some of them are a great deal less efficient than others.

Take the widespread view of many British advertisers that to reach the mass market (by which they mean you and me), they must go on television.

Television is a powerful medium. With a price-tag to match.

The cost of making a 30 second TV commercial these days is likely to be around £120,000.

That's £4,000 per second. We're not talking here about a mini-epic, just an average commercial.

The really expensive ones go much higher. (Take a deep breath.)

Within the last year there have been TV commercials - naming no names - which cost £1.8 million, £1.2 million and £800,000.

It's baffling how any 60 seconds of celluloid can cost such vast sums when the BBC can make a whole hour of TV drama for a relatively meagre £400,000.

But the costs of television don't stop there. Once you've made the commercial, you still have to air it, and air time is costly.

To screen a 30 second commercial in front of the mass audience (25 million adults) just once - and once only - will cost the advertiser around £220,000 (£340,000 when you include production).

For a third less than that, the same audience could have been reached by full page advertisements in all national daily newspapers.

A press advertisement can be every bit as arresting as any TV commercial.

(Think of the RSPCA's pile of dead dogs.)

There are also many things a press advertisement can do which a TV commercial can't. It can present a viewpoint in depth, as we have done here. These words won't dissolve and vanish after 30 seconds.

If you want to read it again, or check a figure we've quoted, this page will still be here an hour, a day, or a week later.

If you're seriously interested in what we've said, you might cut the page out and keep it for reference.

By contrast, every time the poor TV advertiser wants access to another 30 seconds of your attention, he has no alternative but to spend a further £220,000.

Not that a television commercial could convey a fraction of what we have discussed.

How much of this ad can you read out loud in 30 seconds?

Not a lot.

In actual fact, about as much as fits on this television screen.

The moral of the story: To make the most of your advertising investment, do it in newspapers.

USE THE POWER OF THE PRESS



This city's cab-drivers say they need greater protection — from the passengers who see them as mobile cash-machines

It is usually the last resort of the uninsured journalist to write about taxis, but this week New York taxi-drivers forced themselves on our attention by staging a vast demonstration in Manhattan during the Tuesday evening rush-hour. Thousands of them drove in a slow convoy up Broadway, bringing traffic to a standstill, to vent their fear and anger over the killings and attacks to which they are endlessly subjected.

In London, if anybody is ever frightened in a cab, it is usually the passenger. In New York, it is the other way round. Taxi-drivers here live in fear of their lives, and not without justification. Thirty-five drivers have been murdered so far this year; 45 were killed last year; and the National Institute of Occupational Safety reported this week that taxi-drivers were more likely to get killed in the course of their job than workers in any other American industry.

In fact, only five of those murdered this year were drivers of the familiar licensed yellow cabs, which are the only taxis allowed to pick up fares on the streets. There are more than 11,000 of these in New York, but they comprise only about a quarter of the vehicles for hire which are under the control of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. The rest — about 32,000 of them — are known as "livery cars" and can be hired only by pre-arrangement. They are, in effect, the equivalents of British mini-cabs, though that description would be ridiculous for a category which includes enormous stretch limousines. Five licensed livery drivers have been murdered while working this year, so of the 35 taxi drivers who have been killed, only ten were legal; the rest were unlicensed operators.

The taxi commission, which the demonstrators accuse of ignoring their pleas for greater protection,

## Alexander Chancellor in New York



every cab which would instantly link the driver with the police through a speakerphone. In addition, in April this year, the New York City police department set up a special unit of undercover officers who follow yellow cabs and livery cabs, and

sometimes even drive taxis themselves, so as to catch unsuspecting criminals. This unit has so far arrested 134 passengers and seized 75 guns from them. Promising to increase the hours worked by this unit, the police commissioner, Raymond Kelly, expressed sympathy for the taxi drivers. "Their cabs are like mobile cash-machines," he said. "People know there's money there, and the drivers are by themselves. They're available in the worst neighbourhoods, and the fare can direct the driver to where they want him."

He was touching here on one of the drivers' most insistent re-

quests, which is for the right to refuse fares whenever they feel like it. At the moment, they are obliged to pick up whoever hails them and drive wherever they are asked to go within the city boundaries, unless the would-be fare is obviously drunk or drugged or displaying weapons. One elderly Haitian taxi-driver has entire takings twice in a single week: once when a woman passenger in Greenwich Village drew a knife on him from the back seat, and a second time when he picked up a passenger at Kennedy Airport and was told to drive to a cul-de-sac in Brooklyn, where an ambush of armed men awaited him.

New York taxi-drivers do not enjoy, or probably deserve, the esteem in which their London equivalents are held, for to obtain a licence they are required only to be over 19 years of age, possess a clean driving licence,

and pass a simple proficiency test in English. Mostly they are immigrants, many of them struggling to support their families or pay for their studies; and with taxi fares notably lower than they are in London, they have to work very hard to make ends meet. Increasing numbers of them nowadays are from the Indian sub-continent. Of the applicants for yellow cab licences in 1991, the largest single group were Pakistanis (21 per cent), followed by United States citizens (10.5 per cent), Bangladeshis (10.2 per cent), Indians (10 per cent) and former Soviet citizens (6.8 per cent). The young Bangladeshi taxi-driver who brought me to work today spent the entire journey, at my instigation, describing in some detail the hazards and hardships of his job. I think that he and many of his colleagues deserve a lot more sympathy than they are usually given.

To be cultured and competitive, we must encourage reading, not start taxing it, says Robert Blake

## VAT cannot balance the books

One of the worst experiences of my life was my first few weeks as prisoner of war in Italy in 1942. There were no books at all, only playing cards, and one can soon get bored by bridge and poker. Luckily the deficiency was quickly remedied by the Red Cross and other agencies. I had access not only to the Bible and Shakespeare like the castaways on those desert islands of radio fame, but also to Gibbon, Macaulay and much else.

It is only when one is deprived of something that one appreciates its true value. Books were one of the few alleviations of the 15 months of boredom before I had luck to escape in the autumn of 1943. In fact, this enforced leisure enabled me to read a great deal for which I would probably never have found time later — for example, all of Shakespeare's plays, the whole of the Bible, and Gibbon from start to finish. I also read Dante's *Inferno*, laboriously construed with a pocket dictionary.

Years later I heard about the idiotic campaign on the home front to pulp books "for victory", which was as silly as the move to melt down iron railings and gates. My father, involved as an elderly volunteer in this odious process, suddenly rebelled and smuggled as many books as he could into his own library; and many of them have come down to me.

What was the point of fighting Nazi book-burners if we were going to pulp our own? But books are now under a renewed threat, less immediately lethal but on a long view scarcely less debilitating: VAT. This is said to be one of the options being considered by the Chancellor for his Budget on November 30. Let us hope he opts out. Otherwise he will be reversing the thrust of the Conservative philosophy of education, which is to increase individual opportunity and overall economic performance by improving standards of literacy, education and skills training.

There does seem to be a remarkable unanimity, not only in politics but throughout the entire political, industrial and educational establishment, that something has gone radically wrong over the past generation or more in education and in training in industrial skills. The laments of university chancellors that too many students start their university careers unable to read well enough to absorb the syllabus are now being supplemented by a chorus, from the prime minister down, that reading standards are deplorably low.

John Major tells us "one in four children leave secondary education and can't read properly"; John Patten adds that literacy is a key issue for Britain's international competitiveness: "I do not believe that Germany and France have the same problems." The supposedly superior Scottish educational system suffers too: the Secretary of State for Scotland, Ian Lang, protested recently that "many young Scots are leaving school unable to read and write. They don't have the tools to do the jobs of yesterday, never mind tomorrow."

The respected national literacy agency, the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit has reported that some six million adults cannot read well enough to cope with daily activities, let alone seize opportunities, while 28 per cent of companies rated employees' writing skills as "poor" or "very poor". The adult literacy unit has just an-

nounced a family literacy initiative — in effect an emergency remedial exercise — which has strong support from the education department. It would be destructive and ironic if the Treasury were to undermine this.

So this is not just a debate about education. It is an urgent debate about Britain's economic performance and standing in the world. It is also about the ability of individuals, and of the nation as a whole, to stand on their own feet. Reading depends on public access to books, newspapers and other daily reading matter. Its long-term importance transcends short-term Treasury considerations.

When Gladstone abolished excise duty on paper and initiated the abolition of stamp duty on publications, he described the latter as a tax "which has long stood in evil odour in this House". He was echoed by Kingsley Wood, who as Churchill's Chancellor in the second world war accepted that the new purchase tax, to finance the war in its grimmest days, should not apply to books

and newspapers. Iain Macleod and Anthony Barber agreed when they introduced VAT in 1972, and so zero-rated books, newspapers and magazines, to avoid imposing "a tax on knowledge". And this policy was again endorsed by Nigel Lawson — at Margaret Thatcher's behest, as he not apply to books

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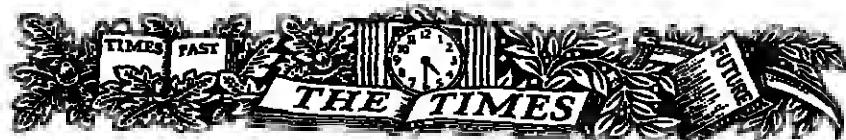
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## EUROPE ON THE DOLE

Workers are massing against the reforms that would bring jobs

Strikes and a massed demonstration by Belgium's main socialist union brought Brussels almost to a halt yesterday. Their protest noisily illustrated the dilemma common to most of the European Community leaders assembled for their "celebratory" summit. John Major, keenly aware that Britain's recovery depends on continental Europe's emergence from recession, pleaded with his colleagues that the most practical way to boost growth and jobs was to make labour more flexible, deregulate production, open up markets — and reduce interest rates. His colleagues' sceptical reception of Jacques Delors' grand spending plans and outspoken attack on "monetary orthodoxy" reflect a growing realism about the causes of the EC's declining competitiveness. But what brought the demonstrators onto the streets was the Belgian government's overdue effort to forge a "social pact" to cut the country's unsustainable budget deficit and restore its flagging competitiveness.

These are precisely the reforms required to reduce Belgium's soaring unemployment and stimulate investment — and precisely the measures which are hardest to take in mid-recession. In Germany, Italy and France this year, the story is the same.

Chancellor Kohl's scathing description of his country as "a collective leisure park" has launched a nationwide debate on the costs of the social state, the inflexibility of its labour force and the accumulated costs of over-generous perks for workers — ranging from holiday bonuses to free canteens and paid visits to health spas. With unemployment expected to rise to 3.8 million next year even if growth resumes, Germany's economists are unanimous that there is no alternative to cutting spending and welfare payments — including Germany's unbelievably generous unemployment benefits. But even the first reforms have cracked Germany's famed social peace: 120,000 construction workers rallied in Bonn this week against plans to phase out "bad weather" winter payments; and proposed cuts in the huge subsidies to

the coal industry have produced pit sit-ins, hunger strikes and blockaded motorways. In Italy, the enormous public respect in which the prime minister, Carlo Ciampi, is held — coupled with the main parties' dread of facing the electorate — helped him survive a crucial vote of no confidence yesterday. But 1,000 amendments threaten his courageous 1994 budget; and with unemployment nearly 11 per cent, Thursday's general strike was joined by 14 million workers, some of them involved in violent demonstrations.

As for France, where the Air France dispute broke a year of industrial peace unparalleled since 1946, the government's humiliating retreat bodes ill for the restructuring plans of its other loss-making state-owned giants — and hence for Edouard Balladur's plans to raise Frs400 billion through privatising them. All these plans include mass redundancies; and the government's most optimistic assumption about unemployment, now 11.7 per cent and rising, is that resumed growth next year will do no more than stop the dole queues lengthening. Europe isn't working, and M. Delors is right that economic growth alone will not end the dole queues. But, although even he now admits that labour market rigidities are a problem, his "new deal" is anything but new. His "top-down" schemes for EC public investment in infrastructure, transport and information technology betray a mindset which sees the state as the creator of wealth.

Technological change creates intractable problems of adjustment as well as opportunities, and all countries need active labour market policies to get people back to work. But the fact remains that Europe will not work so long as labour costs rise four times as fast as in America or Japan. It will not work so long as high minimum wages deter employers from hiring people they cannot fire, and taxes and social security absorb an average 45 per cent of wages. When the Delors White Book comes before the December summit, Mr Major needs to win the argument — for Europe's sake.

## WHOSE PEACE?

Ulster needs much more than Anglo-Irish cooperation

In a conflict as ancient as the Irish dilemma, the word "breakthrough" should be deployed with the greatest caution. Yesterday's meeting between John Major and Albert Reynolds, the Irish taoiseach, had many constructive aspects, notably their strong joint rejection of the recent accord between the SDLP and Sinn Féin. The talks were more substantial than the benign platitudes which traditionally emerge from the Anglo-Irish sideshow at an EC summit. Yet, after a week of bloodshed in the province, it would be premature to see the discussions as more than a diplomatic staging-post.

As the six principles underpinning the Irish submission to the meeting revealed, Dublin's position on some issues is indeed shifting. This week, Dick Spring, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, reopened the vexed question of Articles 2 and 3 which assert the Republic's constitutional claim to the province and have long been a stumbling-block to productive negotiation with the loyalist community. The Irish government has also firmly acknowledged "once and for all... the freedom of Unionists to withhold their consent" to change.

This recognition appears to mark a new realism and clarity in some areas of Dublin's diplomatic thinking. Yet there was a worrying ring of familiarity in other parts of the Irish submission, which aimed to hold the door open to terrorist groups more widely than was proper or wise in the aftermath of last Saturday's Shankill Road bombing and the cold-blooded murder of two Catholic brothers on Thursday. "They can come to the negotiating table," its submission claimed, "they can play a peaceful part in the

development of Ireland's future". These supplicatory italics must have been noted with relish by Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political wing, who as spokesman and coffin-bearer for this week became a despicable symbol of the Republican ballot and bullet strategy. Mr Reynolds may have rejected the Sinn Féin-SDLP pact last night; but it is clear that he would like to see the Republican movement included in negotiations sooner rather than later.

More fundamental questions remain. After seven days in which 17 people have been killed in the North, the people of Ulster might be forgiven for asking why Dublin's attitude should suddenly be so important; with what authority Mr Reynolds and Mr Spring presumed to plot the province's future; and who spoke for Belfast as London and Dublin whispered to one another. Since 1985, the warmth of Anglo-Irish relations has nurtured false optimism in London and Dublin and misconceptions about the structures in which peace will be achieved. In truth, negotiations between the British and Irish governments can only be one element — and probably quite a small one — in the resolution of the province's problems.

In spite of Mr Major's dependency upon his Unionist supporters in Parliament, it is easy to see why many loyalists see the spectre of "joint rule" in cosy meetings such as yesterday's. That suspicion can only help to postpone useful discussions between the constitutional parties in the North. For men of goodwill such as Mr Major and Mr Reynolds to talk openly and often is a necessary condition of peace; but it can by no means be a sufficient one.

## REPEAT AFTER ME

Repetitive strain injury is as old as the ancient Egyptians

The human body was not designed to spend eight hours a day, five days a week, performing the same fiddly action. Even Stone Age man, chipping away at a flint, would eventually take time off to go hunting. As recently as ten years ago, journalists or typists would punctuate their hours at the keyboard by pulling the carriage return lever and feeding new sheets of paper into their typewriter. Now the boon of the word-processor has led to the bane of repetitive strain injury (RSI). Or so most people thought until Thursday, when Judge John Prosser told them otherwise.

Rejecting a claim by a journalist, Rafiq Mughal, against his former employer, Reuters news agency, Judge Prosser pronounced that RSI was meaningless and "had no place in the medical books". He suggested that keyboard users forced to give up their jobs because of agonising pain in their muscles and joints were "eggshell personalities who needed to get a grip on themselves".

Any tennis player or athlete — not famous for their eggshell personalities — will confirm that injury does not have to be the result of sudden trauma; it can also be caused by frequent repetition of the same movement. Tennis elbow is just one variant of RSI, an ailment that was recorded as long ago as the papyrus-beaters of Ancient Egypt. But it is only since the introduction of VDUs in the past decade that its incidence in this country as a work-related problem has

become widespread. Sufferers are handicapped because the symptoms of RSI — which range from tingling and numbness to excruciating pain — often do not display themselves. Like back pain, it is hard for doctors to confirm that a patient is suffering from RSI. It is this that has led some doctors and employers to propose that the condition does not exist; or that if it does, it is all in the mind.

Some "sufferers" may be malingerers but there have been many documented examples of ambitious, dedicated people being forced to give up a job they enjoy because of RSI. Moreover, many people have had mild strain injuries cured by being taught to sit or type differently or by being given a chair or desk of a better height. If that cures the pain, it seems logical that the wrong posture or bad office furniture will have caused it in the first place.

Employers may believe that denial is in their interest. Actually the opposite is true. If employees suffering from RSI think that their bosses will be unsympathetic, they will not report the symptoms. If left to deteriorate, RSI can force workers to give up their job altogether. Like many complaints, RSI can be an excuse for lazy employees. But the condition is prevalent enough and preventable enough for no purpose to be served by denying that it exists. Judge Prosser went well beyond his brief and expertise by painting all RSI sufferers as neurotics.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Leadership issues in N Ireland

From Mr David Trimble, MP for Upper Bann (Ulster Unionist)

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("A bomb for all bigots", October 27) is quite right to point to the way that direct rule has corrupted public life in Ulster and reduced us virtually to the status of a colony.

But he is wrong to suggest that all Ulster's elected representatives are content with this state of affairs. Our party has consistently drawn attention to the scandal whereby virtually all local government is run by quangos, stuffed by placemen drawn from a remarkably narrow range of society.

Our leader, Jim Molyneux, has consistently urged the return of responsibility to locally elected representatives. Indeed in 1979 he successfully persuaded the Conservatives to include this in their election manifesto — a commitment they soon forgot to implement. Last year, three of the four "constitutional" parties agreed a plan for a local assembly run on the principle of proportionality, but they hesitated to implement it.

In 1981 I was one of the authors of a publication entitled "Ulster, the internal colony", which urged reform of parliamentary procedures for Ulster. One of the key reforms we advocated, the creation of a Northern Ireland select committee, moved a step nearer today when the Commons Procedure Committee voted to consider the issue of the membership of such a committee.

Then perhaps Parliament will move to end legislation by decree, the other key reform we recommended, a reform endorsed in recent years by the Hansard Society and the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID TRIMBLE,  
House of Commons.  
October 27.

From Mr C. L. Dawes

Sir, I agree with today's statement by the mayor of Belfast that the recent violence in Northern Ireland is linked to the Hume/Adams talks, but I disagree totally with his conclusions. Any settlement will have to be some sort of compromise, and compromise is anathema to the bigots on both sides.

The run-up to any solution will be marked by an increase in violence, but, dreadful though it is, it will be a price worth paying.

Yours faithfully,  
C. L. DAWES,  
Leacon Hall,  
Warehorne, Ashford, Kent.  
October 26.

### The price of loving

From Mr Matthew F. Smith

Sir, The declining popularity of weddings ("The high price of loving", October 28) is hardly helped by the impersonal nature of some wedding ceremonies. Many churches refuse to marry divorcees, but some clergy will not allow the couple to choose hymns, never mind having a say in the form and content of the service. (For example, not every woman today wants to be "given away" by her father or a male relative.)

The increasing number of couples of mixed faith would like to be able to have both religious traditions affirmed in a spiritual ceremony, but this is seldom permitted. Against the national trend, Unitarians and others of a liberal persuasion are experiencing increased interest because we can offer personalised approaches to religious rites. The marriage ceremony should be an expression of a precious and unique relationship and therefore the couple have a right to feel happy about what goes into it. Otherwise, why go through with it?

Yours sincerely,  
MATTHEW SMITH  
(Information Officer),  
The General Assembly of Unitarians and Free Christian Churches,  
Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street,  
Strand, WC2.  
October 28.

### Test of seniority

From the Rector of Morden Team Parish

Sir, The Church Society may be the oldest evangelical Church of England society, but to call it the most senior ("Church faces fresh battle over women", October 23) is misleading. A previous rector of Morden, Canon Tom Livermore, was for many years its secretary, at a time when it did command the support of most evangelical Anglicans.

Today one should look to the Church Pastoral Aid Society for a more comprehensive representation of the evangelical Anglican constituency (although it does not see itself in a party campaigning role). Perhaps the Church of England Evangelical Council best describes where mainstream Anglican evangelicals are coming from.

Sincerely,  
RAY SKINNER,  
The Rectory, London Road,  
Morden, Surrey.  
October 26.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

### Sex education for young children

From Mr David Baxter

Sir, As a parent of four children, three of whom are under 11, I strongly object to the latest classroom guide on sex education (report, October 26).

The Family Planning Association's increasingly explicit materials should have no place in our primary schools. Details of this kind are not appropriate for children of that age.

Once again we see an attempt to sacrifice innocence at the altar of so-called social need. The results of interference of this kind over the last 20 years are plain for all to see, with a dramatic increase in teenage pregnancies and an abortion rate which is scandalous.

I have not abdicated or delegated my responsibility in this area to the FPA or other such organisations. Their interference has already gone too far.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BAXTER,  
11 Kirby Close, Ipswich, Suffolk.  
October 26.

From Miss Miralee Hackshaw

Sir, Libby Purves ("Plumbing for the under-8s", October 26) seems to assume, quite wrongly, that sex education lessons in primary schools are conducted without parental knowledge and support.

She acknowledges that young children's minds are open to the influence of our troubled society. Should we not therefore ensure that we provide sensible, honest and straightforward information about sex, sexuality and personal relationships if our children are to develop fully as emotionally mature human beings?

Sex education requires a variety of approaches at different ages, and there should be progression in a programme which matches the development of the pupils concerned.

Ms Purves seems to indicate that the use of correct terminology for the sexual parts when working with the young is misguided and inappropriate. She cannot surely be suggesting that playground slang for body parts has a place in the primary classroom and that children should be denied the opportunity, in a learning

environment, to use the correct names and find out to which gender they apply.

Teachers are faced with the huge responsibility of educating the whole child — i.e.

... the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, and we should prepare pupils... for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life (section 1, Education Reform Act 1988).

In my view, many prayers have at long last been answered with the publication of this excellent Family Planning Association book, which will assist professionals in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities.

Yours faithfully,  
MIRALEE HACKSHAW  
(Deputy headteacher),  
Hotham Primary School,  
Charlwood Road, Putney, SW15.  
October 26.

From Mrs Phillida Jermain

Sir, When answering my three children's questions at an early age about sex, I found a brief accurate response was all that was wanted. Any attempt at a detailed answer left me addressing an empty room.

Most children of 4-7 years old are simply not interested in sex. Relationships and the difference between male and female are noted and discussed in a general way from their first year at primary school.

The time for sex education in schools, which should always be within the context of a loving relationship, is before entry to secondary school, at the onset of puberty, when children become aware of and seek to find out about the changes in their bodies and emotions.

The Family Planning Association's proposal would appear to be a totally inappropriate attempt to teach the unnecessary to the innocent and uninterested.

Yours truly,  
PHILLIDA JERMAIN (Chairman,  
Young Families' Committee),  
The Mothers' Union,  
The Mary Sumner House,  
24 Tufton Street, SW1.  
October 27.

### Changing the clocks

From Mr Brian Cook

Sir, The proposal of Mr G. L. Sinclair and others (letter, October 23) to re-introduce Central European Time would certainly not "match waking and daylight hours much more efficiently" in Scotland and the North of England.

I am sceptical, too, of the claim that accidents each year would be reduced by "nearly 2,000". icy roads in the morning darkness are a far greater hazard than wet ones in the evening, I suspect.

At present, most children in Scotland can travel to and from school in at least half-light. Leaving home an hour earlier would mean several weeks of travelling in darkness.

The cost of heating one's home for an extra hour in the dark mornings will more than offset any gain from going to bed an hour earlier. I know this to be a fact from my own experience 25 years ago when this change was foisted upon us. My consumption of gas was greater than before or after the experiment.

To conclude, there is no overwhelming necessity to inflict on us such a time change. Nobody, I am sure (certainly not in Scotland), would object to those who think like Mr Sinclair getting to work an hour earlier. This can be done without the need to play around with the clocks any more than we do now.

Yours faithfully,  
B. COOK,  
5 Upper Colbride Terrace,  
Edinburgh 12.  
October 24.

From Father Roger Arguile

Sir, Your argument (leading article, October 25) about changing from GMT to CET lacks credibility. The citizens of Chicago trade with those of New York and San Francisco without difficulty. Those Britons who wish to trade to maximum effect with Europe may start work an hour earlier (just as those who trade with Japan live strange twilight hours). But to impose this arrangement on the rest of us is an unwarranted interference with our lives.

Yours,  
ROGER ARGUILE,  
St Bertin's Vicarage,  
Holmeford Road, Stafford.  
October 25.

From Mr H. A. Bolt

Sir, Mr G. L. Sinclair and his associates, using speculative statistics,

### Present and correct

From Mrs Jean M. Storrow

Sir, Like Mrs Casson (letter, October 19; also letters, October 8, 25), on the invitations to our golden wedding celebration last year we said: "Please, no presents — just come yourselves." Our friends came, bringing trifles, tokens, commemorative offerings, anniversary remembrances, little something, little nothings, even a little nonsense, but — they assured us — no presents.

Yours faithfully,  
JEAN M. STORROW,  
Ryedale House, Helmsley, York.

present a poor case for the imposition of Central European Time, and omit to mention that it has already been tried and rejected.

For three years, from October 1968, we suffered it, until Parliament (responsive in those days to public opinion) reverted to our present system. The only new factor since that time is the insane determination of Eurofanatics to subjugate us in every conceivable way to the policies and practices of the Continent.

Under CET Birmingham would start work at the same time as Berlin, although sunrise there is an hour earlier. Given Mr Sinclair's arguments, the Germans should be putting their clocks forward yet another hour. But Germans have more sense.

Yours faithfully,  
H. A. BOLT,  
Horizons, Green Lane,  
Yarpole, Leominster,  
Hereford and Worcester.  
October 23.

From Mr Michael Henderson-Begg

Sir, Our insistence on putting our clocks back to British Winter Time (otherwise known as GMT), together with escalating fares and declining investment in transport, helps to erode London's standing as Europe's major financial centre. Our clocks should be kept permanently aligned with those of virtually the whole of Western Europe. Apart from anything else, we could avoid the absurdity of trains hurtling through the Channel tunnel with different times at each end.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL HENDERSON-BEGG,  
Bartholomew House,  
66 Westbury Road,  
New Malden, Surrey.

From Miss M. Davies-Scourfield

Sir, Those who wish single/double summer time re-introduced state that early risers "would have to adapt, often by starting work an hour later" (and presumably finishing an hour later), and that "in Scotland the early mornings will (sic) be gloomy in midwinter" — and even gloomier in Shetland.

However, these continental timers can themselves adapt immediately by rising an hour early in winter and two hours early in summer.

Continental time was given a fair trial and abandoned — I trust permanently.

Yours faithfully,  
M. DAVIES-SCOURFIELD,  
The Stables, Burpham,  
Arundel, West Sussex.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER STELL,  
Frognaal, 25 Berks Hill,  
Charleywood,  
Hertfordshire.  
October 28.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER STELL,  
Frognaal, 25 Berks Hill,  
Charleywood,  
Hertfordshire.  
October 28.

### Plea to save Third World aid budget

From Mr Lenny Henry

Sir, It seems that our foreign aid budget is about to be cut, and that as much as £100 million may go at a stroke. As someone who has visited a lot of aid projects in Africa and seen the huge changes that small amounts of money can make to people's lives, I would beg this doesn't happen — and I've got a feeling most of the British public feel the same.

During the 1984 famine in Ethiopia, at the time of Live Aid, all of us joined together in an extraordinary unity of emotion, knowing for damn sure that our own problems were not of the magnitude of the people starving north of Addis Ababa. It was a true and deep feeling. We at Comic Relief have tried to keep this feeling alive — and the British people have absolutely gone with us.

On last Red Nose day, 4.1 million phone calls were made to give us money. Over the years, people have given Comic Relief £30 million out of their own pockets, £30 million to spend in projects, and £60 million to spend in Africa and these aren't rich people — we get quids from kids and tenners from pensioners every time we do Comic Relief and we know the country cares about aid in Africa.

Obviously this is a tough round of Treasury decisions and every area of life faces cuts. But the people that Britain's aid is helping abroad are often living so near the edge that they just can't take any more cuts.

When there's an earthquake in San Francisco, 70 people die — when there's an earthquake in India, 30,000 people die. When there's a drought in Ethiopia, half a million people die — when there's a drought in Britain, it's our roses.

The aid is crucial for people who are that vulnerable. We beg the government not to cut one area of spending of which we can all be proud.

Of course we at Comic Relief, and the millions who support us, aren't politicians — we don't have to face the Treasury's tough choices. But, readers of *The Times*, if you bump into Ken Clarke, or find yourself sitting next to Mike Pordoll in the canteen, please pass this message on — "Don't Cut Foreign Aid".

Then tell them to visit the hospitals they support in India, the schools they open in Cambodia, the wells they build in Eritrea — and then they, and everyone in the UK, will be proud of what they didn't do.

Yours etc,  
LENNY HENRY,  
Comic Relief,  
74 New Oxford Street, W1.  
October 25.

### London orchestras

From Mr John Drummond

Sir, Anthony Everitt's letter (October 27) about the membership of the Hoffmann committee on the funding of London orchestras assures us that such people "approach their task with no sign of vested interest". I am sure this is true, especially since the majority of committee members do not live in London.

But does this not also mean that they are not in a convincing position to judge the quality of the orchestral playing which I thought was the point of the exercise? Resident in Bourne, mouth, Newcastle upon Tyne, Chicago and Brisbane or Hong Kong, they will no doubt have clear views on business plans or education proposals. But what about the music?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN DRUMMOND  
(Director, BBC Promenade Concerts),  
16 Langham Street, W1.

### Cost of theatre

From Mr Archie Newman

Sir, In his otherwise excellent article (October 23) regarding the new lecture theatre at Emmanuel College, Marcus Binney writes that it will cost £10 million. Excellent though the new building is, its actual cost is just £4.2 million. The sum quoted by Mr Binney is the sum required to carry out the entire current development programme here.

Of the remaining £6 million, the principal items include the provision of academic posts and teaching fellowships, a fellow librarian and archivist, provision of scholarships to Harvard and increased provision to relieve hardship among the student body.

Yours faithfully,  
ARCHIE NEWMAN  
(Development Director),  
Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

### Put out more flags

From Mr P. A. Barnard

Sir, So John Patten is suggesting that schools throughout the land should fly the Union flag (letters, October 29). I believe this may be the only workable idea he has so far come up with for raising standards.

Sincerely,  
P. A. BARNARD  
(Headteacher),  
The Winston Churchill School,  
Hermitage Road,  
St John's, Woking, Surrey.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.







OBITUARIES

DORIS DUKE

Doris Duke, once known as "the richest woman in the world," died in Beverly Hills on October 28 aged 80. She was born in Manhattan on November 22, 1912.

WHEN the tobacco and utility mogul James Buchanan Duke realised he was on his death bed, in 1925, he called for his sole heir and daughter, Doris, then nearly 13. "Trust no one," he urged. "Even if you feel certain someone may deserve your trust, don't do it. That is life's first rule. Follow it, and you'll never be disappointed."

In the seven years since that scene, Doris Duke trusted a handful of people, but not for long. She was a cunning businesswoman who invested shrewdly and left much more than the £30 million she inherited. The inevitable comparisons with Howard Hughes and Barbara Hutton, another "poor little rich girl" do her a disservice. Like Hughes, Doris Duke tended towards the reclusive in later life, and was paranoid about her privacy, swearing her employees to secrecy, and travelling in old clothes and dark glasses. But she was nowhere near as eccentric as Hughes, nor as unbalanced as Hutton. Her life nevertheless presented its fair share of tragedies, wrecked relationships and unaccomplished artistic projects.

Unable to find contentment in marriage, she turned to mystic Eastern religions and enjoyed slumming it on the margins of intellectual and social life. She corresponded with Einstein and parted with the Kennedys, and yet seemed to be taken in by charlatans and quacks. "She loves people who have one foot in the grave or are in trouble with the law," said a friend.

Corresponding with her love of the high and low social life, and her abhorrence of the respectable middle, Duke was well known for being



Doris Duke arriving in New York in 1948

recklessly extravagant on the one hand and breathtakingly mean on the other. She once left jewellery worth over £5,300 in the back of a taxi, but would haggle over the price of a \$10 fare from the airport.

Doris Duke was an only child, and her father worshipped her, lavishing millions on buying her everything she could possibly want. Once, on a visit to England, the young Doris was impressed by the ruins of an old castle. Her father promptly had

another one demolished, transported, and built back up, brick by brick, on the grounds of their New Jersey estate. It was, at the same time, a lonely childhood. Guards were posted around the estate — no strangers were allowed to enter — and wherever she went, Doris was followed by a private detective. Her father's terror of germs led him to build a private railway coach for his daughter which not even the train conductor was allowed to enter.

Surprisingly Doris Duke grew into a sensible and practical young woman with a good business head and a keen sense of values — except where it came to choosing husbands. She admitted to being married twice. The first man in her life was the socialite James Cromwell — divorced and 16 years her senior when she first met him at the age of 17 in the seaside resort of Bar Harbour.

Her mother immediately tried to break up the affair by taking her to Europe, but Cromwell followed and two years after Doris came of age, in 1935, they married. It was not purely a love match from his point of view — on their first night together, he asked what he might expect his annual income to be — but they had a daughter, Arden, who died shortly after her birth in 1940.

Cromwell, however, had political ambitions, and persuaded his wife to support Roosevelt's presidential campaign. The result, when Roosevelt came to office, was Cromwell's appointment as Minister to Canada. Doris quickly became bored with embassy life, reluctantly paying for the wines and flowers and crawling through the embassy windows at night to escape from romantic trysts. After eight years of this, she had an indiscreet affair with an unnamed British MP in a move calculated to shock the political establishment and ruin her husband's chances of running for senate. They divorced in 1943.

Doris Duke's second husband, whom she married in 1947, was the wealthy Dominican diplomat, polo player and international playboy, Porfirio Rubirosa. She bought him a polo team, but the couple divorced 13 months later (he went on to marry Barbara Hutton). In 1954 a third husband came to light — one whom Doris Duke never publicly acknowledged — an ex-band leader called Joseph Castro, whom, Castro

claimed, she had secretly married twice. Castro sued for divorce and damages in 1964, alleging that she had stabbed him with a butcher's knife, but later dropped the actions and the outcome was never made public.

Perhaps aware of her romantic mistakes, Doris Duke decided never to marry again, contenting herself with a series of affairs, including one with Errol Flynn. In 1966 another man in her life met a tragic end. In what was eventually ruled an accident, Doris was behind the wheel of a car that drove over and crushed to death Edward Tirella, her "dear friend and designer".

Her primary escort during the 1970s and 1980s was Franco Rosellini of the Italian opera and film-making family. Rosellini and Doris travelled the world together, regularly visiting Imelda Marcos in the Philippines — one of Doris Duke's closest friends. It was said that Doris Duke taught Imelda the art of shopping. For more than ten years, nobody at Doris Duke's business office dared tell her that it was she and not Rosellini who was paying for his ostentatious presents of flowers, chocolates and long-distance telephone calls — when she was eventually informed that he had been charging everything to her bill she broke off the relationship. Her friendship with Imelda Marcos fared somewhat better. When the ex-president's wife was charged with embezzlement in 1988, it was Doris Duke who put up the \$250,000 bail.

Doris Duke did her best to hide her enormous wealth, hoarding up her priceless collection of oriental art and furnishings behind non-profit making foundations and "museums", which she reluctantly opened to the public in order to keep them tax-exempt. The bulk of her estate, valued well in excess of \$1 billion, will go to charity.

ERICH HARTMANN



Former enemies meet: Erich Hartmann, in the cockpit of a Spitfire, with Peter Townsend, right, and the American Ace Don Volkmer in 1971

Erich Hartmann, second world war German fighter ace, died on September 20 aged 71. He was born in Weissach, near Stuttgart, on April 19, 1922.

ERICH "Bubi" Hartmann was known throughout Nazi Germany as the "Blond Knight," a hero not only of the propaganda newsreels. His remarkable achievement of downing 350 aircraft — most of them Russian — and his boyish blond looks made him a favourite of Adolf Hitler, who rarely lost an opportunity to be photographed next to the fighter ace.

Contemporaries say that Hartmann seemed to have almost no fear in the cockpit. He would speed into close combat and open fire only at the very last moment. His favourite aircraft was the ME109 which gave him a clear advantage over Soviet aircraft on the Eastern Front. But his marksmanship was so accurate that he took his toll even of the technically superior American Mustangs.

Hartmann was brought up in China where his father worked as a doctor. He was in his early teens when the family returned to Germany and he was seized by his mother's love of flying. Germany was secretly re-arming in the 1930s and no great obstacles were put in the way of a teenager wanting to fly. By the age of 16 — in 1938 — Hartmann was not only an accomplished pilot but also a fully-qualified gliding instructor. Shortly after his 18th birthday he joined the Luftwaffe and started his career as a fighter pilot.

Some of the aircraft that German pilots claimed to have shot down over the Eastern Front were not certain "kills". As the war against Russia ran into trouble, so the German propaganda machine

exaggerated the score of victories. Yet few experts questioned Hartmann's claims: he was fast, accurate — and very lucky. On the occasion of his 300th confirmed strike, Adolf Hitler added the "Diamond" insignia to his Knight's Cross.

The success went somewhat to his head: as a squadron commander in Russia he was constantly at loggerheads with senior officers and rarely hid his contempt for them. Hitler's protection and the constant stream of successful combat missions ensured that nothing happened to him. Hartmann scored his last victory on the day that the war ended in Europe. He had flown a total of 1,400 combat missions.

Hartmann was arrested by the Russians in Czechoslovakia and was later sentenced to 25 years' hard labour in Ivanovo. Moscow said he was being punished for the destruction of 345 Soviet aircraft. In fact, various high-ranking Russian officers had offered him freedom if he were prepared to settle in East Germany and help to train the East German air force. He refused the offer and stayed in the camp. In October 1955 was he freed, and allowed finally to return to Germany.

Hartmann was still relatively young and he flied easily into the structure of the new West German air force. Given the rank of major at the age of 37 he was made commander of the Richthofen fighter squadron, the first such unit set up in West Germany.

By the early 1960s his life had slowed down. Married, with a daughter, his former razor-sharp reflexes had become rather dulled. In 1963 he was appointed to an administrative job as "tactical inspector of the air force".

Hartmann was promoted to colonel and took early retirement in 1970. For several years he worked as chief instructor in a private flying school near Bonn.

GIDSKE ANDERSON

Gidske Anderson, Norwegian author and journalist who was deputy leader of the committee that awards the Nobel Peace Prize, died on October 19 aged 71. She was born in Oslo on November 4, 1921.

GIDSKE ANDERSON had been on the secretive five-member Nobel peace prize committee since 1982, and led it in 1990, when the prize went to then Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev for his part in ending the Cold War. She stepped down in January 1991 to become deputy leader. She wrote some 20 books, including biographies of prominent Norwegians, poetry, travel stories and an account of her first battle with

cancer called *Det hente meg* ("It Happened to Me"). Having graduated from the National College of Arts, Crafts and Design in 1940, she worked on resistance movement newspapers during the Nazi occupation of Norway.

In 1948 she became Paris correspondent for the Oslo newspaper *Arbeiderbladet* and from 1956 was also a correspondent for the Norwegian state radio network, NRK. In 1964 she moved to New York where she worked as a freelance correspondent until 1967. From 1964 until 1967, she was a freelance correspondent in New York. Later, she worked for NRK and *Arbeiderbladet*, mainly in foreign postings before returning to Oslo in 1981. She never married.

SIR WILLIAM PATON

Sir William Paton, CBE, FRS, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology at Oxford University, died on October 17 aged 76. He was born on May 5, 1917.

WILLIAM PATON was an academic who made a significant contribution to modern medical science. It was owing to his research that ways were found of relaxing muscles during surgery and that methods were discovered of protecting deep-sea divers from the neurological effects of high pressure. He also enjoyed some celebrity during the 1960s by coming out strongly against cannabis as a drug possessing beneficial effects.

William Drummond Macdonald Paton was the third son of the Rev William Paton and Grace Mackenzie Paton. He went to school at Winchester House, Brackley, and at Repton. He was a scholar of New College, Oxford, where he obtained first-class honours in physiology in 1938 and then completed his medical education at University College Hospital, London. He was an exceptional undergraduate, winning the Theodore Williams, Christopher Welch and Jesse Theresa Rowden scholarships, and then, at UCL, he won the Goldsmith exhibition in 1939 and the



Gold Medal in clinical medicine in 1941. He was editor of the University College Hospital magazine.

In 1942 he qualified BM, BCH (Oxon). For about two years he worked as pathologist at King Edward VII sanatorium and then in 1944 he joined the scientific staff of the National Institute for Medical Research. There in

the department of pharmacology he worked for eight years and did some of his finest work. In 1952 he became Reader in Pharmacology at University College and University College Hospital Medical School; in 1954 he was appointed Professor of Pharmacology at the Royal College of Surgeons in England and in 1959 he succeeded J. H. Burn

as Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Oxford, retiring in 1984.

Paton's name will always remain associated with two outstanding discoveries in pharmacology: his work, together with Nora Zaimis, former professor of pharmacology at the Royal Free Hospital on methonium compounds, and his work, together with F. Macintosh, former professor of physiology at McGill, Montreal, on histamine liberators. As a result of these discoveries he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1956, and in the same year, he and Zaimis were jointly awarded the Cameron prize for their work on the methonium compounds.

By showing that some of these compounds, for instance, decamethonium, blocked transmission at the neuromuscular junction; that others, like the hexamethonium, had the same effect at the sympathetic ganglia; and by analysing in each case the kind of block produced, a new field in pharmacology was opened up which led to the search for similarly acting drugs. Since then every textbook of pharmacology has devoted a chapter or two to these blocking agents.

Paton's paper of 1951 on the neuromuscular block by dec-

methonium, which shows him to have been an ingenious and exceptionally skilful experimenter, will for a long time come to be recommended to students as a classical analysis of a pharmacological action of a drug. The work on the methonium compounds has had a wide clinical impact, because neuromuscular blocking agents are used in anaesthesia and in intensive care to permit artificial ventilation. Many people also owe their lives to Paton's work on the ganglionic blocking action of hexamethonium, because drugs with this kind of action are life-saving in malignant hypertension.

Paton's work on histamine liberators established a new class of pharmacologically active substances which provided a valuable tool for research on histamine. This potent substance, whose physiological function is not yet fully understood, is present in an inactive form in most animal tissues including the brain. Three other important contributions by Paton deserve special mention. During his years at the Royal College of Surgeons, he developed an ingenious yet relatively simple method for exciting nervous structures in the walls of the gastro-intestinal tract. The site and mode of action of various drugs, such as morphine, affecting mobility of stomach and gut have been successfully analysed with this method.

During his years at Oxford Paton became deeply interested in the properties of the tissue receptors for acetylcholine. With H. P. Rang he was the first to perform a rigorous analysis of the binding of a drug to a tissue which showed that the binding does reflect the functional changes induced by the drug; this work began a whole new field in pharmacology.

A life-long interest in drug-dependence led him to study the pharmacology of cannabis — of which he emerged as an authoritative critic — but probably his most important contribution while at Oxford was the discovery, with K. W. Miller and E. B. Smith, that the neurological symp-

tom affecting deep-sea divers were directly due to the high pressures used and to the prediction that the effects could be antagonised by the addition of a gas (nitrogen) that is an anaesthetic at these high pressures. The addition of nitrogen to helium and oxygen to give the so-called "Trimix" has allowed divers to work at depths of over 2,000 feet. No better example could be given of how a basic principle of pharmacology (the antagonism between pressure and anaesthesia) can be applied to enrich a country. Without Trimix the exploitation of the oil and gas fields in the North Sea would have been very difficult.

His leadership of the Department of Pharmacology at Oxford was characterised by his encouragement of the young graduate students to emulate the very high standards in research (four fellows of the Royal Society out of a staff of 50) and by his quiet but strong championing of the discipline of pharmacology in the university. The subject became the most popular option for third-year medical students and his foresight led to the allocation of a plot of land upon which the present department now stands. He was a respected fellow of his college (Balliol) and he was not at all happy when the university moved the chair to another college after he retired.

The country owes a great debt to Bill Paton for his largely hidden work on committees: at one time he realised that he served on 72 and chaired many of them. Although he served as an adviser to many government bodies and was a Justice of the Peace, perhaps his most important work was as a trustee of the Wellcome Trust, as director of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine and as chairman of the Research Defence Society. It is fortunate that he left his thoughts in *Man and Mouse* (Arts in Medical Research) (1984).

William Paton was appointed CBE in 1968 and was knighted in 1979. He is survived by his wife Phoebe whom he married in 1942.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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## Plan to revive Ulster peace talks

John Major and Albert Reynolds agreed to launch a fresh attempt to bring peace to Northern Ireland. They suggested that they would talk to the IRA if it abandoned violence.

The two leaders vowed to try to revive the stalled talks between the constitutional parties and said there could be no question of their adopting the report of the dialogue between the SDLP and Sinn Féin. Pages 1, 2

## Monetary union is 'unstoppable'

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, brushed aside John Major's doubts about a single currency by declaring that the drive towards monetary union was "unstoppable". EC leaders formally confirmed the "objective" of economic and monetary union "by the end of the century". Pages 1, 12

## MP's pay row

Tory backbenchers and trade unions condemned proposals to increase MPs' salaries by almost twice the inflation rate. Page 1

## NHS charges

Big rises in National Health Service charges are expected from next April as part of the Chancellor's efforts to contain spending below £253.6 billion. Page 1

## Jubilee go-ahead

The government approved one of the biggest construction projects of the decade, the £1.8 billion extension to the Underground's Jubilee Line. Page 1

## Women priests

The ordination of women priests into the Church of England was overwhelmingly backed by the House of Commons. Pages 1, 10

## Singer's plea

George Michael told the High Court that his American record company saw him as a difficult British artist when he tried to swap his raunchy image for one to woo adults. Page 3

## East End returns to its roots

The East End of London, a place of folk myth, wartime stoicism, Jack the Ripper, Petticoat Lane, the Bloody Tower, EastEnders, jellied eels and, sometimes ugly racism, may soon call itself... the East End. Officially the area is Tower Hamlets but civic leaders want to restore its traditions. Page 1

## RSI dispute

Medical and legal experts are divided over the existence of repetitive strain injury, following the ruling given by Judge Prosser QC in the High Court. Page 5

## BNP seeks new base

The British National Party is planning to expand its operations by opening a new base in Reigate, Surrey. Page 7

## Smaller pint

Britain's ale drinkers were angry after the government announced that a pint of beer could include 5 per cent of froth. Page 8

## Quebec threat

The Bloc Québécois, the party likely to form the official opposition in Canada's new parliament, will work to bring about independence for Quebec, and thus the break-up of Canada, "as soon as possible". Page 13

## Angola tragedy

The smell of death fills the hospital in Cuito, a once charming Angolan town where half the population has been killed. Page 14



Mourners at the grave of Lord Grimond, the former Liberal leader, after a funeral service at Kirkwall. Clement Freud, page 3

## Heartbreak hotels: Queens Moat

Hotels, Britain's third largest hotel combine, suffered a pre-tax loss of £101.5 million for 1992 which, after taking account of exceptional items of £939 million, rises to a near record breaking loss for a UK corporation of more than £1 billion. Page 21

## Canary Wharf: Bankers to the

rejuvenated Dockland development say they are prepared to pump in more money to ensure its success after the lifting of an administrative order. Page 21

## Rate hopes dashed: The prospect

of an early cut in interest rates dimmed as Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England, said UK rates were currently at an appropriate level given government financial targets. Page 21

## Markets: Sterling rose .97 cents to

\$1.4882 and .05 pence to DM2.4950. The FT-SE 100 index was up 8 at 3,171. Page 24

## Basketball: Simon Barnes meets

Shaquille O'Neal, the hottest, richest star of his sport. Famous in the United States for playing basketball, famous in this country for being famous. Page 36

## Rugby Union: Today the All Blacks

face one of the toughest matches of their tour of England and Scotland when they play the South and South-West division at Redruth. David Hands assesses their prospects. Page 39

## Football: Uefa, European football's

governing body, is to introduce professional referees next year. There will eventually be a full-time pool of 40 to 50 referees to handle the three European club competitions. Page 40

## Athletics: A revolutionary shoe

equipped with electronic sensors may be the answer to the problems of racewalking, a discipline beset by technical disqualifications in recent years. Page 40

## Hallowe'en haunts: Alan Coren

is anxious to meet the ghosts of architects and cricketers — anybody, in fact, except relatives. Page 1

## Orange squash: Hattie Ellis gets

her teeth into pumpkins. Page 5

## Rake's progress: Cleaning autumnal

lawns with Liz Gerard. Page 6

## Novel approach: Which of today's

first editions will represent an auction-house killing. Page 7

## Taking the chair: Enter our competition

to win a pair of chess chairs made by Andrew Varah and worth £3,000. Page 9

## Muscular Christianity: The Olympic

hurdler Kress Akabusi preaches the good word. Ruth Gledhill with *At Your Service*. Page 11

## Writ in water: There is renewed

interest in generating energy by water power. Nick Nuttall reports on recent projects both great and small. Page 18

## Tyro thespians: What are 22 witch-

es from Worthing, two Harrovian angels, assorted Tartars from Rugby and Captain Cook doing on the same stage? Chosen from more than 200 entries from schools and youth groups, they are the finalists in the Barclays Music Theatre Awards. Weekend, 16

## Theatre double-header: Harold

Pinter's elegant struggle for domination, *Old Times*, receives a new production at the Birmingham Rep starring Carol Royle and Tim Pigott-Smith; while Fay Weldon's hard-hitting social satire on the uncaringness of the caring makes it to the stage. Weekend, 16

## Record of the week: The disc of a

live performance of Hans Werner Henze's Seventh Symphony, given in Birmingham's Symphony Hall last year by Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, is a welcome addition to the catalogue. Weekend, 16

## VISION

James Carville and George Stephanopoulos were the terrible twins of the Clinton campaign. Carville was all charm and canniness; Stephanopoulos was the calm, brilliant Rhodes scholar. Ian Brodie on *The War Room*. Page 3

The thesis is that chemicals in the water we drink may be exerting a potent effect on the reproductive system. Nigel Hawkes considers *Assault on the Male*. Page 6

## OPINION

## Europe on the dole

The fact remains that Europe will not work so long as labour costs rise four times as fast as in America or Japan. Page 17

## Repeat after me

RSI is prevalent enough and preventable enough for no purpose to be served by denying that it exists. Judge Prosser went well beyond his brief by painting all RSI sufferers as neurotics. Page 17

## COLUMNS

## SIMON JENKINS

Pinter and Stoppard (or Stoppard and Pinter) are a coupling that is coming to define our age. Page 16

## ALEXANDER CHANCELLOR

Taxi-drivers in New York live in fear of their lives, and not without justification. 35 drivers have been murdered so far this year. 45 last year. Page 16

## LETTERS

Views on sex education for young children. Page 17

## THE PAPERS

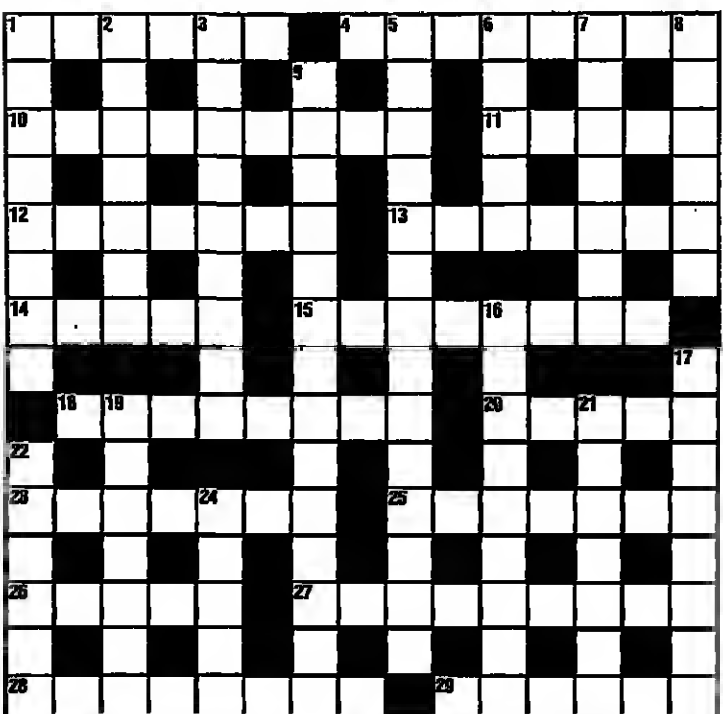
The larger issue is whether France is going to enter the 21st century with a flexible economy or with one in which mobs hold veto power — *The Wall Street Journal*

The nation is not served by an impatient foreign policy, nor by the frustration that is generated by complex, long-range, low-percentage challenges — *USA Today*

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,375

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a beautifully crafted stationary rack, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



## ACROSS

- 1 Fashionable babywear put on son (6).
- 4 Progressive is promoted (8).
- 10 Bloomer made by reflective youth (9).
- 11 Island to put down here (5).
- 12 Place for passenger that gets drunk in cocktail bar (7).
- 13 Garment not cared for by mademoiselle (7).
- 14 Avoid extremes on seventh occasion (5).
- 15 Too much supplication needing divine intervention (8).
- 16 Force to join crew in port (8).
- 20 Am I as confused as these people? (5).
- 23 Outline a number of Romans got when travelling (7).
- 25 Church bell cutting short deadly sins (7).
- 26 Medal, say, from conflict in 29 (5).
- 27 Vital cure could be profit-making (9).
- 28 Fabulous location for unsuccessful TV programme (8).
- 29 Draw attention to state daughter's in by end of test (6).

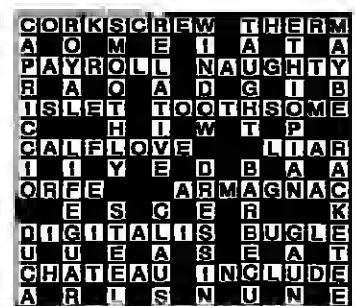
## DOWN

- 1 Evil rites could be construed as this (8).
- 2 A game that may be contract (7).
- 3 University constructed in royal style (9).
- 5 Result of cutting off fashionable female's quarter inch in length (14).
- 6 Producing reverence often associated with a prayer (5).
- 7 Educational establishment that's right for a mineworker (7).
- 8 Poet it's not very interesting to study (6).
- 9 Poetry making dreadful hardship so real (1,10,3).
- 16 Made rough arrangement for defence volunteers (4,5).
- 17 Girl shut up, not properly employed (8).
- 19 A partnership in firm for political reporter (7).
- 21 Ordinary seaman overcoming anger (7).
- 22 Save from predicament (6).
- 24 Sort of paper there's a call for in Parliament (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,369



Solution to Puzzle No 19,374



## FOR THE LATEST REGION BY REGION

forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilt, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Derby, Leics, East	706
Bedf, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire & W. Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Ceredigion	715
W & S Yorks & Dales	716
N.E. England	717
Yorkshire & L. East	718
Derbyshire & L. East	719
S.W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
Edin & S. Highlands	722
S. Central Scotland	723
Strathclyde & E. Highlands	724
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Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N. Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## FOR THE LATEST AA TRAFFIC AND ROADWORKS

information, 24 hours a day, dial 0338 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

## National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## Winners of last Saturday's competition

are: G W Granger, Brookside, Wotton Gilbert, Durham; A Bell, Horsley Gardens, Sunderland; J C Jones, Cromwell Drive, Swanwick, Derbyshire; S Johnston, Millbank Avenue, Portlough, Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland; A Evans, Wimmerfield Crescent, Killay, Swansea, West Glamorgan.

## WEATHER

A generally dry day, with a good deal of cloud. The Northern Isles and the far north of Scotland may have some drizzle, although Shetland could turn drier later with clearer periods. Elsewhere bright or sunny intervals are likely; southern and western parts are likely to see the best of these, with eastern areas keeping a lot of cloud. Temperatures around normal, with a light breeze. Outlook: Little change, some fog overnight.

## AROUND BRITAIN

Information supplied by Met Office

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# Queens Moat's cast of thousands

That was the week that was for Queens Moat Houses' bankers, directors, ex-directors, advisers, ex-advisers and shareholders.

There are, of course, some ex-shareholders but they are very much yesterday's men, bearing in mind the fact that investors have been locked into the company ever since the quote was suspended at 47p last March.

The writing of a dangerously red hue, appeared on the wall last Monday, when recently appointed chairman Stanley Metcalfe, former chief of Ranks Hovis McDougall, informed shareholders that an extraordinary general meeting was called for in view of the not insignificant fact that Queens Moat's net assets had fallen to less than half of its called up share capital of £251.5 million.

Such news was highlighted in *The Times* on Wednesday but received precious little coverage elsewhere, presumably because of the directors' quaint decision

to inform shareholders but not the media.

Nor was the media given overmuch information as to the little tête-à-tête planned for Thursday between representatives of the company's 65 bankers — not only wolves hunt in packs — at the Cheapside HQ of Queens Moat Houses' solicitors Allen & Overy.

Security guards paraded outside, Metcalfe and Andrew Coppell, Queens Moat's recently appointed chief executive, paraded inside and, in the wake of a sandwich lunch, news came, from joint lead bank Barclays, that the outline plan, presented to the steering committee, demonstrated that Queens Moat Houses has a "viable future". There was, however, a rider to this. QMH had a viable future "despite the company's 1992 results and the mid-year results for 1993".

Such news was presumably well received by the Bank of England, which, ever since

Queens Moat's liquidity problems erupted last spring, has been keeping a watchful eye on the affair. Coppell confirmed yesterday that the "appropriate authorities" had been "kept informed of progress" — a sensible precaution under the circumstances.

In the event, the banks, collectively owed more than £1 billion, have agreed to extend their "standstill" agreement in respect of interest due from Queens Moat Houses; the alternative being the appointment of an administrator or a receiver. The Bank of England's precise thoughts on the desirability of more UK hotels (and QMH controls 103 of them) coming under administration are not known but, judging from events, the Bank is unlikely to favour such a development.

And so the stage was set for yesterday's revelation that, in one fell swoop, the value of Queens Moat Houses' hotel portfolio — which also embraces 86



Melvyn Marcus

European properties — has been slashed by more than £800 million: the wielder of the axe being chartered surveyors Jones Lang Wootton.

The evaporation of Queens Moat Houses asset base is all the more astonishing in view of the fact that surveyors Weatherall Green & Smith placed a £2 billion valuation on the company's properties — as shown in the

accounts to end-December 1991. A year later, Queens Moat Houses' portfolio is perceived to be worth just £861 million.

John Bairstow, who founded Queens Moat Houses and still holds some 8 million shares, appeared as astonished as anyone. In his words: "I am perplexed by the revelation that two firms of professional valuers have apparently differed by as much as £1 billion in valuing QMH's properties — even if the basis of valuation was different."

His suggestion is that the matter should "go to arbitration under the auspices of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors".

The matter is, arguably, all the more contentious in view of Mr Coppell's unashamed statement that the board is "optimistic about the long-term recovery potential of the group's asset values".

It would appear that in 1992 Queens Moat Houses actually suffered exceptional losses of

£939 million — of which £803.9 million reflected the valuation writedown — which, added to a pre-tax loss of £101.5 million, took the total loss before tax to no less than £1,040.5 million — a UK record outstripped only by BAE. Take a bow, Professor Rowland Smith.

All of which means that not a few advisers are somewhat embarrassed, not least the aforementioned Weatherall Green & Smith.

Then again, Queens Moat's former auditors Bird Luckin presumably feel somewhat out in the cold and, to all intents and purposes, are having been replaced by Coopers who, with a few tricks of the accountancy trade, have turned Queens Moat Houses declared 1991 pre-tax profit of £90.4 million into a pre-tax loss of £56.3 million.

Not to forget, of course, that accountants Grant Thornton, originally called in to investigate affairs at Queens Moat, are still beavering away on the compa-

ny's proposed capital reconstruction on behalf of the 65 banks who are doing their best to recoup their £1 billion deficit by way of an inevitable "debt for equity" swap which, equally inevitably, will savagely dilute shareholders' funds.

It was Grant Thornton which, way back in May, presented the Steering Committee with a 276 page report on the company's affairs — extracts from which appeared in *The Times* on Friday. Grant Thornton may be acting for the banks but Coppell confirmed yesterday that Queens Moat Houses can be expected to foot the bill. The banks, it may be recalled, have also called in SG Warburg as advisers. Who, one wonders, will pay their fees. And, of course, Charterhouse were long ago replaced as Queens Moat's financial advisers by Morgan Grenfell. Interesting to note that provisions of as much as £32 million have been made "in connection with the envisaged financial restructuring."

## IBM confesses sins

IBM, the world's largest computer company, admitted that its employees had become arrogant, insular and complacent (Philip Bassett writes).

Speaking at the annual conference in Harrogate of the Institute of Personnel Management, Roger Harrison, management and leadership development manager, said that many companies, including IBM, had been so secure

that they had stopped asking their employees to earn promotion, pay rises and job security.

This public acknowledgement reflects shifts forced on the company by technological and marketing changes in the computer industry. IBM's profits have been hit hard and in Britain alone, the company has had to shed 5,000 employees since 1989.

## BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S NEW RATES OF INTEREST EFFECTIVE FROM 1ST NOVEMBER 1993

Account	Amount Invested	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
Ordinary	£1+	0.50	0.38
Timesaver	£1+	0.50	0.38
	£250+	1.35	1.01
	£1,000+	2.35	1.76
Maximiser First Choice (including bonus)	£50+	1.75	1.31
	£500+	4.35	3.26
	£3,000+	4.90	3.68
	£10,000+	5.35	4.01
Maximiser Special Asset	£5,000+	5.50	4.13
	£10,000+	6.50	4.88
	£20,000+	7.00	5.25
	£40,000+	7.25	5.44
(Income)	£5,000+	5.25	3.94
(Income)	£10,000+	6.25	4.76
(Income)	£20,000+	6.75	5.06
(Income)	£40,000+	7.00	5.25
Maximiser Classic II TESSA†		6.25	—
Maximiser High-Retain II TESSA†		7.25	—
Maximiser High-Retain II TESSA Feeder		7.25	5.44
Maximiser High Yield S.A.Y.E. Feeder		5.50	4.13
Maximiser S.A.Y.E. 15 Years††		8.50	—
Maximiser S.A.Y.E. 7 Years††		8.02	—
Premier Deposit	£100+	1.85	1.39
	£10,000+	5.50	3.90
	£25,000+	5.95	4.46

Account	Amount Invested	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
Maximiser Income	£1,000+	3.55	2.66
	£3,000+	4.45	3.34
Maximiser Growth	£3,000+	4.55	3.41
Maximiser Top Rate	£25,000+	5.15	3.86
(Income)	£25,000+	4.95	3.71
Maximiser Bonus (incl. full bonus)	£1,000+	4.30	3.23
	£10,000+	5.30	3.98
Maximiser Option 1	£2,500+	4.00	3.00
Option 1 (Income)	£2,500+	3.95	2.96
Maximiser Option 3	£2,500+	4.55	3.41
Option 3 (Income)	£2,500+	4.45	3.34
Maximiser Option 6	£2,500+	5.65	4.24
Option 6 (Income)	£2,500+	5.50	4.13
Maximiser Vintage Bond Issues 1 & 2	£5,000+	7.00	5.25
	£25,000+	7.50	5.63
(Income)	£5,000+	6.80	5.10
(Income)	£25,000+	7.25	5.44
Maximiser Vintage Bond Issue 3	£5,000+	7.00	5.25
	£25,000+	7.50	5.63
(Income)	£5,000+	6.80	5.10
(Income)	£25,000+	7.25	5.44
(Income)	£50,000+	7.45	5.59
(Income)	£100,000+	7.60	5.70
Premium Access (Issue II)	£1+	2.23	1.67
Extra Interest & Extra Income	£1+	2.22	1.67
High Income	£1,000+	3.95	2.96
High Interest	£1,000+	4.00	3.00
Flexible Savings (Inc. full bonus)	£1+	1.83	1.37
High Flyer Issues 1	£1,000+	3.30	2.48
	£10,000+	4.30	3.23
Super 90	£1,000+	4.55	3.41
	£25,000+	5.55	4.16
(Income)	£10,000+	4.65	3.49
Spa TESSA II†		6.70	—
Spa TESSA III†		6.90	—
Maximiser High-Retain Feeder Issue I		7.35	5.51
	Gross % p.a.	8.50	—
	Net % p.a.	6.50	—
Maximiser Optimum TESSA	5.50	—	—
Maximiser Classic TESSA†	5.50	—	—
Maximiser High-Retain TESSA I	6.50	—	—

For details of other accounts please contact your local branch. Interest rates are variable and are correct at time of going to press. Net equivalents assume the current basic rate of income tax of 30%. Interest will be payable net of the basic rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required registration, gross. Net rates quoted are rounded and are for illustrative purposes only. †Tax-exempt.

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Cedric Brown is likely to tell the minister he will not support the MMC's plans unless they are adopted in full

## Revenue enquiry at Johnson Fry on company loans

By Jon Ashworth

JOHNSON Fry, the financial adviser specialising in business expansion schemes, is at the centre of an Inland Revenue enquiry into possible tax avoidance involving inter-company loans.

The special investigations section, which carries out large corporate enquiries into suspected cases of tax avoidance, is studying the accounts of LIT Holdings, Johnson Fry's parent company. Details emerged as LIT announced a surge in BES revenue and said it is changing its name to Johnson Fry Holdings.

LIT's accounts show that the company received an enquiry from the special investigations section on August 31. It is not

yet possible to judge the effect, if any, of the enquiry, which focuses on interest on loans between unspecified LIT companies. The section is only assigned to big cases.

Paul Gildersleeves, LIT company secretary, said: "There is some chance, I suppose, that it will come to something. It's not something that we take lightly."

Under the proposed restructuring, Christopher Castleman, chairman, will become chairman of the renamed Johnson Fry Holdings. Charles Fry, who co-founded the financial services company in 1969, will become chief executive. The changes are likely to be approved by Christmas.

Mr Castleman, who is director, financial services, at Standard Chartered, has presided over four difficult years at LIT.

LIT America was sold in July. Disposal losses pushed LIT Holdings to a pre-tax loss of £20.6 million in the six months to end-June (£22.5 million profit). The loss per share was 42.9p (1.8p earnings). Johnson Fry raised £281.5 million in BES funds in the first half (£98 million). Operating profits, excluding LIT America, rose to £7.7 million (£2.4 million). The company had £145 million under management at June 30 (£102 million), and property under management of £665 million (£280 million).

## British Gas pressure on Heseltine

By Neil Bennett

BRITISH Gas wants an early meeting with Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, now that the consultation period on the monopolies commission's report into the gas industry is at an end (Neil Bennett writes).

The company is expected to warn the minister that unless the commission's proposals for breaking up British Gas and phasing in unrestricted market competition are adopted in full, it may withdraw its support from them.

Cedric Brown, British Gas's chief executive, is believed to want to meet Mr Heseltine in the next two weeks to discuss the results of the consultation period, which ends at midnight tomorrow.

British Gas has been selected as technical operator for the distribution section of a gas project linking Chile with Argentina across the Andes.

Tempus, page 23

## Rank agrees £60m hotel sale

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

RANK Organisation, the leisure combine, has clinched the sale of its Royal Lancaster Hotel in central London for £60.75 million. The buyer is Landmark, a Thai hotel group. Announcement of the sale sweetened a trading statement from Rank that suggested that any economic upturn was, at best, patchy.

Michael Gifford, chief executive, said: "Continental European and Japanese markets have yet to show any signs of improvement. Economic recovery in the UK and USA remains uneven and weak."

Analysts who attended Rank's half-yearly meeting were inclined to give the company the benefit of the doubt, and the shares rose 9p to 84p. There seems to be a gentle recovery

going on in the holidays area," Nigel Reed of Paribas said. "There are a number of areas where there are positive numbers coming through."

Mr Gifford said that, to end-September, trading results were ahead of last year in spite of a reduction from hotels as Rank leaves the hotel market.

Tempus, page 23

## Spring Ram bid talks fail

By Carl Morrissey

BID talks between Spring Ram, the kitchens and bathrooms group, and Masco Corporation have ceased, by mutual agreement. The company's shares, which have suffered from boardroom turmoil and the departure of chief executive Bill Rooney, profit warnings and shareholder rebellions, slipped from 60p to 55p.

Roger Regan, chairman, said Masco had not been prepared to offer a price in line with his expectations for the business. "I have been talking to shareholders, and none of them are prepared to accept a price that does not reflect the company's earnings potential over the next five years," he said. Mr Regan said there was



Regan: talks off

nothing wrong with Spring Ram's markets. "The big issues are management issues." A consortium of institutional shareholders invited Mr

Regan to take over the chair of Spring Ram in July.

Spring Ram's share price has fallen to less than a third of its 184p peak, and last month the company revealed losses of £36 million due to large provisions against stocks and costs associated with start-up difficulties.

Mr Regan said he had received an approach from Masco soon after joining. "The first few days I was here I was inundated with bargain hunters, but Masco was the only one I paid attention to." He said that Masco had been a long-term business partner of Spring Ram and a customer for its products and he expected talks to continue on areas of commercial co-operation.

Tempus, page 23

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### BAe secures £100m Navy missile order

BRITISH Aerospace has won a £100 million contract to supply vertical-launch Seawolf anti-aircraft missiles to the Royal Navy. The contract will safeguard jobs at BAe's dynamics manufacturing centre at Loslock, Lancashire, and at Filton, near Bristol. Bob Bartlett, dynamics project director, said: "It will help provide long-term stability for our manufacturing workload from 1995 onwards."

The contract is the third large order placed by the defence ministry in the past fortnight. BAe secured a £200 million order for ammunition and on Wednesday, a £140 million contract for a new bridging system was awarded to Rolls-Royce. The vertical-launch Seawolf entered service in 1991 and forms the main air defence of the Navy's new Type 23 frigates. The missiles are in sealed canisters from manufacture to the moment of firing and require no on-board maintenance. The rush of orders comes against a background of Cabinet battles over Treasury efforts to pare £1 billion from the defence budget.

### Whyte woos former foes

WHYTE & Mackay, which has won control of Invergordon Distillers in a bitterly fought takeover battle, says that it wants Chris Greig and two other executive directors who led the defence, to stay with the company. Michael Lunn, chairman and chief executive of Whyte & Mackay, the UK drinks offshoot of American Brands, said that he had high regard for Mr Greig, Invergordon's managing director, Edward Pickard, finance director, and Geoffrey Whitaker, marketing director. "I sincerely hope they will stay," said Mr Lunn. "We are in very co-operative discussions." Negotiations were likely to take a couple of months, he suggested. It is understood that the trio are on rolling three-year contracts.

### Markheath seeks time

MARKHEATH, a property company talking to its banks about a financial restructuring, said it was asking the trade department to postpone the deadline by which it must submit its latest trading results until the end of the year. Michael Rendle, chairman, said the delay in submitting audited accounts was due to the talks with the banks. This month, Markheath, which is owned by The Adelaide Steamship Company, an Australian conglomerate, announced increased unaudited taxable losses of £68.8 million (£22.7 million) in the year to March 31. George Haines, a non-executive director, has resigned through ill health. His place is taken by Robert Wright, Adelaide's executive director.

### Crest valued at £54m

SHARES in the flotation of Crest Packaging, the packaging and cartons group, were priced at 135p, valuing the company at £54 million. The company, a management buyout from Bowater in 1985, is coming to market via a placing, sponsored and underwritten by SG Warburg Securities. Four directors and their families, who hold 100 per cent of the equity, will share £14.1 million as a result of the placing and retain 73.5 per cent of the equity. Lilliput, which makes miniature cottages, released its pathfinder prospectus. It is seeking a listing next month with a placing and intermediaries offer valuing the group at about £20 million. About £17 million will go to existing shareholders and £3 million to the company.

## Keys to prosperity

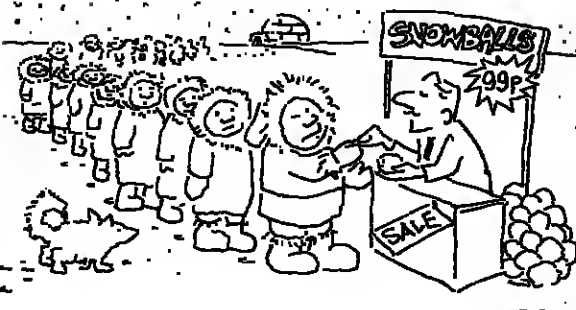
The most important event this year in the world of sales takes place in Birmingham at the beginning of next month: the "Successful Selling '93" conference and exhibition, on Thursday, November 4 and Friday, November 5.

During two, inspiring days at the International Convention Centre, there will be interest-packed workshops and video-backed seminars on techniques.

Speakers include: John Davis (Mercury Communications), Warren Greshes ("Speaking of Success" NY), Phil Forrest (Aegis Marketing), Martin Williams (Orbitame UK), Chip Eichelberger (Robins International, US), Bunney Freeman (Senior Trainer, ISMM).

The seminar chairman will be Ken Clark (J. Rothschild Assurance), Paul Joslyn (Sunlife Broker Services), Graham Roberts Phelps (Roberts Phelps Training) and Derek Forbes (Forbes Management).

In addition, *The Times*, in association with the Institute of Sales and Marketing Management (ISMM), is backing the British Sales



and Marketing Awards of 1993. On Thursday, four prestigious awards will be presented:

The Royal Mail International European Award for direct marketing.

The Cefnet Award for the most effective use of mobile communications by a sales force.

The Laurentian Financial Group Award for professional selling.

The Times Award for the Salesperson of the Year.

The normal one-day rate for the conference and exhibition (including lunch) is £150 plus VAT (£176.25); the two-day rate £220 plus VAT (£258.50). The Times is pleased to offer readers:

• £30 OFF the two-day rate; £15 off the one-day rate.

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حکومت اسلامی



J Rothschild Assurance: Mike Wilson and Sir Mark Weinberg

# Twenty-five years, and never a cross word

partners in power

The suave man of ideas and the "people person" prosper from reversal of their expected roles, Martin Waller finds

It takes a funny sort of person to want to be a salesman. Aside from needing drive, stamina and self-motivation, you have to be able to bounce back from repeated rejection. The shy, sensitive introvert plagued by a sense of inadequacy need not apply.

How curious, therefore, to meet Mike Wilson, one of the main movers behind J Rothschild Assurance, an ambitious new player in the life assurance game that is above all about salesmanship.

At JRA he has teamed up again with the man who can reasonably claim to have invented many of the rules by which the game is now played. Sir Mark Weinberg, the chairman, is the man behind the growth of two of the biggest success stories in life assurance so far, Abbey Life and Allied Dunbar.

This month, indeed, the two men celebrate their quarter century in business together. The paradox is that they reverse the expected roles in such partnerships. Weinberg, 62, has always been the ideas man, uninterested in technical detail. Wilson, 49, has been the self-confessed "people person", dealing with the minutiae of corporate life and the all-important motivation of the sales force.

He should be the confident, outgoing one, and Weinberg the tortured soul dreaming up new concepts away from human contact. Yet, while the urbane Weinberg presents a smooth front, Wilson, the chief executive, talks openly of his horror of entering a crowded room or addressing hundreds of people, and about his childhood and the lack of parental approval that drove him to make a success out of a world he drifted into.

He does not come over as paralytically shy, although his foot does twitch. Yet he admits he "almost dies" if he walks into a drinks party and does not see a

familiar face, and used to regard the annual conference at which he had to address all 2,500 Allied Dunbar staff at Wembley as an ordeal, an event where Weinberg was in his element.

"I love a workshop with people arguing with me rather than just listening — I always think an audience might not be there at the end," says Wilson. "You can't even see the audience at Wembley. I had this fear that the lights would come up at the end and the room would be empty."

Deeply affected by the break-up of his parents' marriage, he made a hash of his A levels and found himself unloading bread from a van at three in the morning. An insurance clerk at Equity & Law at least worked decent hours, he reasoned.

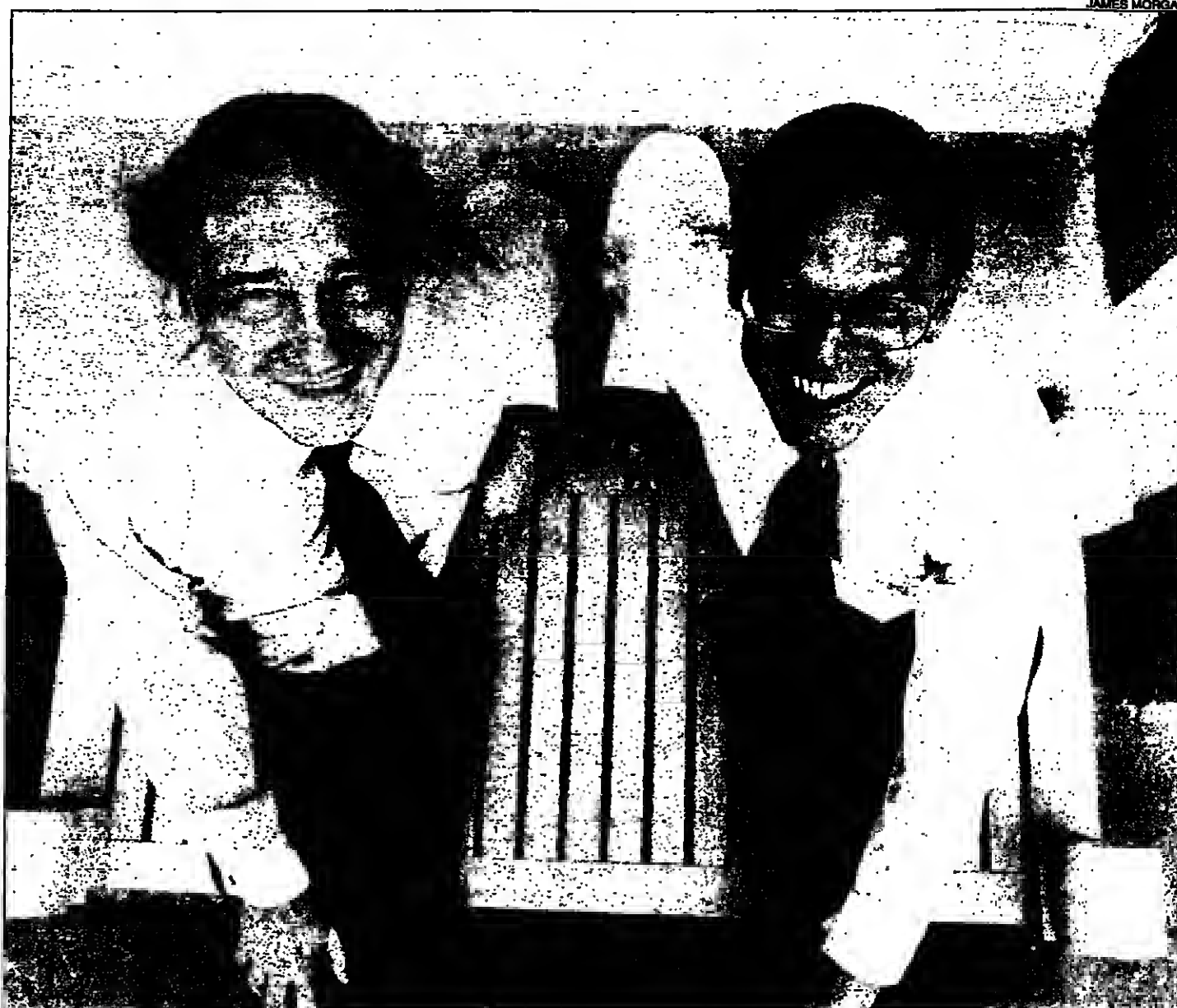
"People do not leave school or university and say, life assurance is for me," he says. "Instead, many people who drift in as a last resort become enormously successful as salesmen."

As soon as I went to a company in an insurance-selling role I knew that selling appealed to me. He is convinced that a brash sales technique is a disadvantage, especially in a business such as life assurance that is all about trust, where the customer has to buy an intangible product that may not show its true worth for decades.

"Ex-accountants, for example, can make good salesmen, because clients like and trust them."

Wilson left Equity & Law because the company set its salaries according to age alone, and he simply could not afford to live in London. Abbey Life paid according to the business brought in. Characteristically, his lack of self-confidence almost lost him the job.

An interview with Tim Walker, an insurance industry luminary then at Abbey, persuaded him he could never be good enough, and



Sir Mark Weinberg, left, and Mike Wilson have a quarter century of business bonding and a father and son type partnership

he turned it down. "He was so polished, compared with anybody I knew at Equity Law. I must have come across very badly — I'd never met anyone that senior before."

Walker persisted, phoning again and persuading Wilson to join. In 1971, when Weinberg was ready to strike out with his second vehicle, Hambro Life, subsequently to be re-named Allied Dunbar, Wilson joined him. In 1976 he took charge of the 1,500-strong direct sales force in a typically Weinbergian lateral move — Sir Mark, a man of diverse passions who once owned a Welsh gold mine and also lost a packet backing a computerised personal

organiser no one could subsequently use, is a fan of Edward de Bono. Wilson thought the job beyond him, naturally, but it did mark the start of a close relationship.

Weinberg accepts that eight years of university has given him the more trained mind of the two, but adds: "In management Mike is a much more structured and organised person. Mike will say methodically, I have a list of points here, and will handle things in a much more structured way — it isn't my style to tick off lists."

At this point Wilson obligingly

pulls open his briefcase: it is, indeed, full of neat lists. Weinberg continues: "With my businesses, I have always been lucky enough to have one or two people around me with that sort of methodical style, doing all the technical management stuff the books tell you you have to do. Not only do I not do it well, I don't do it at all."

JRA is a four-man team. Aside from Wilson and Weinberg, Keith Carby, another refugee from Allied Dunbar, is managing director and Paul Bradshaw is in charge of J Rothschild International Assurance, which markets the products in Europe and the Far East.

Weinberg is also chairman of St James's Place Capital, Lord Jacob Rothschild's investment vehicle and an initial backer, with a 40 per cent stake, of JRA.

The long-standing link with Rothschild lay behind his acrimonious departure in 1989 from BAT Industries, which had bought Allied Dunbar. Rothschild was one of the triumvirate who launched the ultimately unsuccessful £13 billion bid for BAT that year. Weinberg had, therefore, a foot in both camps. Asked to abandon either the company that had enriched him or his friends, he ostensibly quit both, although it was the link with the

later that endured, a fact that still rankles at BAT. Wilson quit a year later, supposedly after a row over a proposed venture with Barclays Bank he favoured, and slotted into JRA, neatly avoiding a non-competition agreement he had with BAT.

The suspicion must be that what motivates Weinberg, aside from a third fortune, is a desire for vengeance on BAT and Allied Dunbar, with which JRA directly competes. "There would certainly be an element of saying, it would be nice to show that one could still do something very successful," he concedes. "At the age of 60 I found myself creeping out through the back door. I didn't even get a letter of thank-you from BAT. It was an inglorious end to 30 years in life assurance."

Increasingly towards the end, when some bitterness boiled up at BAT, remarks were made that found their way back to me saying, 'he's past it, he's only a figurehead'. They found a target. But it certainly wasn't festering in me in any way."

It must be said that BAT, for its part, still sees both departures as engineered by pretences such as the Barclays row and motivated by a wish by both men to get even richer. There is little love left at BAT's Victoria Street headquarters for Weinberg in particular, not helped by allegations that JRA has been poaching Allied Dunbar staff.

Whatever the state of play with former employers, the two men deny ever having had a row with each other. But they perhaps came closest when Wilson announced plans to contract out the administration and investment functions at JRA, traditionally done in-house. He was influenced by Charles Handy's *The Age of Unreason*, a sort of corporate small-is-beautiful treatise. Weinberg was less impressed. "But I said there is never going to be any conflict between us. This is your show."

Wilson adds: "If I had a son going into business and I could pay for him to be articulated with Mark Weinberg, I would pay a great deal."

It is a telling remark. Wilson still feels he failed his father, who withheld his support when he most needed it. Weinberg recognised his talent and took him under his wing as his protégé, and their relationship perhaps has elements of the father and son.

"Mark will never say you are doing a good job face to face, only to 2,500 people at Wembley," says Wilson.

Weinberg counters: "I didn't think it was necessary. I just thought Mike would know."

## TEMPUS

### Ignoring demerger calls will cause Sid to suffer

SHAREHOLDERS in British Gas have every reason to feel nervous as Michael Heseltine ponders the future of the gas supply industry this weekend. The rising clamour over the imposition of VAT on fuel bills has tilted the debate about the gas industry back in favour of the consumer. If the government decides to pick and choose from the recommendations of August's MMC enquiry in the cause of political expediency instead of adopting the package as a whole, the original Sids who bought British Gas shares in the 1986 privatisation will feel the pain.

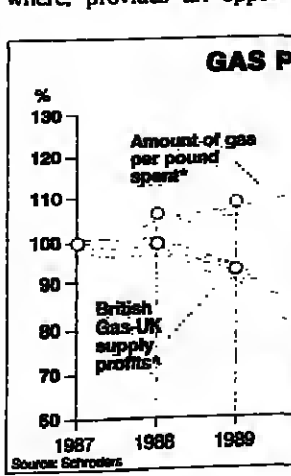
The threat of government machinations is real, since there are 18 million voters who use gas but only 2 million who own British Gas shares. The nightmare scenario for British Gas and its shareholders is that the government will grudgingly ignore the MMC's call for a demerger of the company's trading business, but back the removal of the domestic monopoly by 2002, or even earlier. This could leave British Gas in a squeeze from a restrictive RPI-minus-4 price formula and saddled with all its social responsibilities to supply gas to remote areas, while aggressive independents can cherry pick its most profitable business.

Curiously, this forces British Gas to be an advocate of its own demerger, since the MMC insisted that any demerger should be paid for by the consumer. It added that the supply business needed to be financially viable, thereby forcing Ofgas to loosen its pricing formula. In any case, ICI has shown that demergers tend to be rather good for shareholders.

British Gas shares, at 345p, are up 26 per cent from their year's low and have outperformed the market in the past month. Sharehold-

ers may not feel they need much protection. But the chart (below) shows just how tighter regulations have cut into their interests since privatisation. While the unit cost price of gas has become 23 per cent cheaper since 1987 in constant prices, operating profits from group gas supply have fallen 29 per cent.

These two lines will diverge even more sharply if the government removes the monopoly without any compensating measures. Unless the government resists the pressure from the hue and cry over VAT and comes up with a balanced package for the industry, the chances of British Gas being able to continue to offer real dividend growth (something we have come to expect from our utilities) look unappealing.



tunity to refocus on the group. Rank is, as ever, about two things; the reduction of heavy debts and the arrival of the economic upturn to which the group is heavily geared.

Debt is a question of two steps forward, one step back. A figure not far shy of £1 billion last October has been cut by £100 million, but currency movements have then expanded the headline figure by another £80 million. The sale of Royal Lancaster Hotel trims this figure by a welcome £60 million. Economic recovery is still halting. The shares sell on about 18.5 times' 1992/3 earnings, about the market average. Although Rank remains a good play on an eventual upturn, the numbers do not suggest much immediate upside.

**Spring Ram**  
INVESTORS should be grateful that Spring Ram's bid talks with Masco are over: yesterday's 5p dip in the shares suggests that the market never believed a sensible offer was on the cards. Spring Ram's public boardroom rows enticed bidders like vultures and a takeover for the company now would serve no one except the buyer. The key question is what

is the business worth? At its peak, Spring Ram was apparently earning profits of as much as £30 million but subsequent accounting problems and the new management's recent adjustments and write-downs to the accounts cast doubt on the record. Yet it is clear that Spring Ram has the guts of a profitable business in selling kitchens and its new chairman is respected by customers. That alone justifies a bid price well above 60p. The chief problem facing the company is turning the bathrooms operation into profit and getting a payoff from its investment in Regency Doors. The latter may be problematic. Spring Ram should be well placed when the housing market picks up but management has enough to do without relaunching a business as well. None the less, the group should be more attractive in a year's time.

**Canary Wharf**  
After 18 months of wrangling, Canary Wharf's bankers-turned-shareholders deserve a break but their job is not over yet. The property market has picked up and there are fewer rival developments in central London that offer the same size and quality of space but tenants still demand inducements and many potential occupiers are locked into expensive leases. To justify giving more money to the project, Sylvester Investments, the holding company, needs to forecast a profitable exit, even if the date is years away. The likely scenario is probably tax-driven sales of buildings to investors or even the public using the Enterprise Zone allowances as an incentive. But the jam, if there is any, will not come from the existing development. The next three phases are Sylvester's real hope of catching Twente Pie.



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New insurance guidelines on household safety

# WEEKEND MONEY

## BANK ACTION 28

An official crackdown on dodgy deposits



# Taking the heat out of family fuel bills

The prospect of large rises in fuel bills as VAT is added next April concentrates the mind wonderfully on finding ways of cutting down on heating and lighting costs.

It will almost certainly be the threat of VAT rather than enthusiasm for the government's high-minded, but uninspiring, "Helping the Earth Begins at Home" week that will encourage people to take action. The campaign, running this week and supported by government-funded advertising, has as one of its ulterior motives the government's need to meet its international commitment to stabilise carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by 2000. A useful by-product should be that the addition of VAT has less of a negative impact. Ironically for the government, it will also mean a lower tax take.

Unless Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, experiences a Pauline conversion before next month's Budget, VAT at a reduced rate of 8 per cent will be added to all domestic

The threat of VAT and concern about global warming call for a better use of energy. Sara McConnell investigates the latest in fuel saving measures

heating and lighting bills from April 1994. The following April, VAT will be levied at the full rate of 17.5 per cent. Friends of the Earth calculates that the 8 per cent rate will add £50 a year to the average household's bills, while a 17.5 per cent rate will add £100.

Mr Clarke came under pressure from ministers this week to introduce the tax in one instalment rather than two, some suggesting he should keep it at the lower rate, and others saying he should go straight for the higher rate. Either way, VAT seems certain to be here to stay.

Many people have little idea about the energy they consume, or how they can make their homes more energy efficient, says the National Energy Foundation. And it should know. For the last three years, the NEF, a registered charity,

has been touring the country, rating new and existing houses for their energy efficiency and suggesting ways of improving insulation and cutting down on bills.

It obviously has some way to go. The average home scores a dismal 4.3 out of ten on the National Energy Foundation's national home energy rating scale, says the NEF's Megan Flack, taking in the 15-year-old boiler, the uncurtained sitting room windows and the large expanses of outside wall in my two-bedroom London flat.

The NEF now has 400 assessors and charges between £60 and £80 for a two-hour visit. All the measurements and data on heating, lighting and cooking appliances is keyed into a laptop computer that then gives the verdict and solutions (some obvious and embarrass-

ingly simple, others costing thousands of pounds and taking more than 100 years to recoup costs).

Vic Harrison, one of NEF's assessors, took out a tape measure and started noting down the dimensions of each room in my flat, while Ms Flack explained that all the assessors' work was monitored by the NEF, partly to detect any trace of bias or attempts to use energy efficiency as a sales tactic.

Assessors are recruited and trained by NEF from British Gas, the electricity companies and builders. Worthy citizens all, but they could be tempted, said Ms Flack. "Our aim is to protect consumers." She added, lowering her voice: "There is always a fear of double glazing salesmen using energy savings as a sales pitch for instance. We don't recommend brands."

Buyers of new houses, which will shortly come with an energy rating certificate if government proposals go through, need to make sure each house in a development has its own certificate. It is not unknown for developers to have one for the show house and lead people into believing all are equally energy efficient.

Meanwhile, my inner-city window locks were temporarily defeated by Mr Harrison, who needed to hang out of the sitting room window to work out how the house, a solid Victorian detached villa, circa 1870, was constructed. Insulation was not the Victorians' strong point. Almost all houses built before 1900 are constructed of solid brickwork with no cavity wall insulation, which more modern homes generally have as standard. Councils have been adding an extra layer of insulation to the outside of council houses built in the 1950s and 1960s.

There followed several anxious moments while Mr Harrison turned the gas boiler on and off to test whether it fired unnecessarily when the room thermostat was right down. A broken boiler would have been unwelcome (although energy saving). An examination of the tank and thermostat in the airing cupboard and a series of questions on heating and lighting usage later, Mr Harrison's laptop informed me that my flat had achieved a National Home Energy Rating of 4.3 out of ten, dead on average for older houses. The average home built to 1990 regulations scores six. If my



Megan Flack runs the rule over a typical hot spot that can affect the housekeeping

flat had not been on the first floor, sandwiched between two others, it might well have been lower. My flat is also responsible for producing a horrifying 8.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions a year, again exactly the average. CO<sub>2</sub> is the major greenhouse gas causing global warming and is released into the air when fuel is burnt.

Space heating, of rooms as opposed to water, accounted for more than half the £718 annual running cost. Much of the heat generated is absorbed

by the walls and lost. It did not help that the standard boiler is old.

Cheap and easy solutions for cutting costs and saving energy in any house include insulating lofts, tanks and pipes. Radical solutions in flats, particularly older conversion flats, are limited and can be costly.

As the chart shows, wall insulation in my flat would cost £2,200 and timber softwood double glazing £3,300. However, these two, plus a new boiler, would cut the

annual bill by nearly £300. Energy efficiency can add to a house's resale value. Tony Clark, general secretary at the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), says: "People are interested in energy efficiency and have a great awareness of it".

The insulation of lofts, and double glazing, can be a good selling point, says Mr Clark, adding that those considering double glazing or replacement should be careful to get planning permission if they are in a conservation area.

## Tax idea 'can save energy'

THE government should link the level of tax relief on mortgage interest to the energy efficiency of the property being bought, to encourage homeowners to improve insulation in their homes, Friends of the Earth said this week. Homes should have a compulsory rating to allow buyers to gauge a home's energy efficiency.

In a new book, *Take the Heat off the Planet*, the lobby group also calls for "tough compulsory energy efficiency and fuel efficiency standards" for new buildings, appliances and cars, and changes to regulations governing gas and electricity companies to encourage them to invest in improving the energy efficiency of customers' homes. At the moment, they make profits from selling more, not less, energy.

Simon Roberts, the group's energy campaigner, said: "Individuals have a responsibility to control their energy emissions, but the government is also responsible."

The government has been slow to follow the example of its Dutch and Danish counterparts and encourage the sale of energy-saving household appliances.

Until regulations are brought in, the book suggests ways of cutting costs and saving energy. For example, people buying a new fridge should choose one that runs on fewer than 150 units of electricity a year. This would save £14 a year and 21 per cent of household emissions. *Take the Heat off the Planet* (£3.45 inc P&P, Friends of the Earth, 56 Alma Street, Luton, Beds LU1 2YZ)

Weekend Money is edited by Rose Wild

## More tough medicine needed

What do General Accident Life, Commercial Union Life, Norwich Union, Scottish Widows and Guardian Royal Exchange have in common? There are two answers. The first is that they are all household names, advertising frequently on television and in the press. Between them, they cover the lives and manage the investments of a large swathe of the population. The second is that they have all been fined large sums of money by their regulator, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro), in the past year for failing to stop their tied agents selling unsuitable insurance policies to the public.

The five companies, along with eight lesser-known life insurers, have between them notched up fines totalling more than £1 million in a single year. This week, it emerged that the list of offenders is likely to be three companies longer by the end of this year. Again, the three as yet unnamed companies are household names.

For better or worse (and in these cases obviously worse), large, well-known companies are perceived by the public to be the most reliable and trustworthy. Offered a choice between an unknown life company and one advertising its policies on television as the key to solving all life's problems, most people would obviously go for the brand name. Many readers of Weekend Money, finding that they have been at best misadvised and at worst conned by an agent of a well-known company, feel a sense of betrayal.

Out-and-out fraud is fortunately still

**COMMENT**  
**SARA MCCONNELL**  
Personal finance correspondent

comparatively rare, although there have been some well-publicised cases in the last few years. Far more common is blatant mis-selling. In many cases, people have been persuaded to take out long-term policies, sometimes for life, when all they wanted was a simple short-term savings plan. Others have been advised to come out of a good company pension scheme into a personal pension, which rarely offers the same benefits. Some companies have specifically targeted vulnerable sectors of the community such as students and nurses. Anyone trying to cash in a mis-sold policy will almost certainly not get their money back. Meanwhile, the salesmen are rubbing their hands at the thought of their commission.

Insurers may deny it but it is in their interests not to be too fussy about what their agents sell. They make profits by selling policies. They need to encourage their salesmen with large commissions and bonuses. Some (although not all) the offending companies know that the only way they will make any money is to have an army of hard-sell agents. In many cases, companies do not even

check references before letting them loose. Some of them would not know the difference between a pension and a life assurance policy because they used to sell double glazing or encyclopaedias. But they know how to get their foot in the door and a couple of days' training should see them right. Most independent advisers would not touch these poor-performing, costly policies with the proverbial barge pole.

Lautro's case load of complaints has almost doubled in the last year, a tribute to greater consumer awareness. It is imposing fines more frequently, which is welcome, and publicising them, which is even more welcome. More of the same please, and more often.

### Marriage off

So the mega-merger is off. The managements of the Leeds Permanent and National & Provincial building societies have decided they cannot stomach each other's business styles and would rather be competitors than bedfellows. At least they discovered their mutual incompatibility before they went too far to turn back. The members of the two societies would undoubtedly have been the ones to suffer under a confused and fractious management. Anyone who thinks that running a building society is easy should look at the impact on members of poor management. An inconsistent policy on setting rates, particularly for savers, poor administration and unresponsive staff are just some of the problems that have cropped up in the past at various societies.

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# My home is my prison

Council tenants who buy their homes may subsequently find it impossible to sell them, Richard Milner reports

Sir George Young, the housing minister, is pushing the government's new Right to Mortgage scheme to encourage council tenants to buy their homes. But Westminster council, which has converted 6,000 tenants to owners under the Right to Buy scheme, is under fire for making it almost impossible for them to resell.

Rent to Mortgage schemes enable aspiring homeowners to dip their toes in the water. Whatever they have paid in rent, they can provide in mortgage payments. But they own only 40 per cent of their homes to start with, working their way up to full ownership by easy stages. Right to Buy pitched them in at the deep end.

It offered them the chance to buy their homes at discounts to "market" prices — up to 70 per cent if they had lived in them for 25 years. But the scheme exposed them to the risk of massive bills for their share of communal works.

Realising that this might be a deterrent, Westminster council has, since 1987, offered tenant buyers on Right to Buy schemes an indemnity in the 125-year leases. For ten years, they are exempt from charges for any major building works. But if they sell, buyers do not benefit.

That became clear when David Fitzgerald put his two bedroom ex-council flat up for sale. He had bought it for a

maximum £50,000 discount on an estimated market value of £74,000 four years previously and found a buyer at £59,000. Then came the bombshell. "I suggested he should check with the council," Mr Fitzgerald says, "and they told him to expect charges of £25,000-£50,000 over the next couple of years on major works." He called in a solicitor. "Now I may have to stay on myself. I hope the work is done before my indemnity runs out."

A federation of Westminster council leaseholders has been formed, with 800 to 1,000 members, to put pressure on the council to buy back their homes.

Another long-term council tenant bought his two-bedroom flat in Marylebone for £17,000, five years ago. It was then valued at £54,000. Finding a mortgage was not easy. "City of Westminster had to talk to National & Provincial," he recalls. Much later, the ex-tenant learnt that his indemnity was ticking away. "It's a time-bomb," he says.

Mark Green, of the leaseholders' federation, points out that Westminster council has defined what kind of work it will pay for during the life of the indemnity. Structural repairs to roofs, walls and foundations qualify, wear-and-tear repairs are discretionary. "Improvements" do not qualify. The council

**Nobody would buy a flat with such huge bills on the horizon**



Mark Green, one of the Westminster leaseholders who want the council to buy homes back

worked out that it would cost £1.75 million to buy the 50 flats that owners on Mr Green's estate wanted to sell back.

Paul Hayler, Westminster's director of home sales, insists that what happened to Mr Fitzgerald is not the council's policy. "We have a few big bills of £10,000 or £15,000 but very few," he says. "Our average bill for works is about £2,000. . . . We don't want people chasing a fast buck. But there comes a time to move, say to a new job. We are exploring what we can do to help existing leaseholders."

Former tenants in 23 of 32 London boroughs have diffi-

culties in reselling, according to the Association of London Authorities (ALA). But this is put down to "market difficulties" rather than heavy renovation bills. Mortgage lenders are backing off, and council buy-backs are not popular.

"Publicity about Rent to Mortgage should come with a public health warning," says Peter Challis, one of the association's officials. "People who were encouraged to buy in the boom now find themselves high and dry in the slump. If tenants are buying with one eye on moving in the future, they are in for a shock."

Some lenders object to non-

traditional construction. Nationwide is against concrete panels, for example. Halifax might accept, subject to a 30-year structural engineering guarantee.

Alliance & Leicester will not lend above the third floor in a tower block, both the Leeds and TSB will not say yes above the fourth (and Leeds turns down flats with balcony access). Halifax draws the line at five storeys, NatWest Bank is prepared to go to eight.

Only Abbey National told the ALA: "We consider lending on high rise flats so long as the construction is sound. We'll look at anything."

## Kasparov's latest move is a whole new board game

The king of world chess is to become a director of a new BES scheme



Kasparov: key writer

Garry Kasparov, Russia's world chess champion, £1 million richer after his victory over Nigel Short, the UK grandmaster, is about to become a company director on the board of Cadogan Books, a publisher of guides, which is raising £750,000 through a business expansion scheme (Richard Milner writes).

Kasparov is a key writer for Cadogan, which took over the Maxwell Macmillan chess and bridge book list. Kasparov has written three books, and there are three about him.

Bill Colegrave, Cadogan chairman, says: "Garry Kas-

parov will be our chess consultant. But he will also make a contribution to the travel guide books, particularly in Eastern Europe. He is very much in tune with contemporary Russian politics."

Since the takeover in 1992, 16 new titles have been published — one on the Bobby Fischer v Boris Spassky re-

match, which was in the shops within 72 hours — and Cadogan has expanded into chess product merchandising.

Before he became a publisher, Mr Colegrave was in banking, financing ships, aircraft and enterprise zones. He sold out to Johnson Fry six years ago for about £3 million and bought Cadogan from Metal Bulletin in 1989. He sold 47 general book titles, keeping only 13 guide books. There are now 35.

Cadogan — appearing in the twilight weeks of the business expansion scheme — is the kind of promising but potentially risky small business the scheme was designed to finance.

Mr Colegrave, who has put £280,000 of his money into the business, wants to tie in small booksellers. The minimum subscription is £1,050, or 1,400 shares at 75p, but booksellers can buy 700 for £525.

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## Locking the family in to keep the thieves out

Margaret Dibben says insurers are having to rethink rules on security because of the need to escape quickly from a burning house at night

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) is about to recommend that household insurers do not insist on keys being taken out of windows and door locks overnight. The ABI is preparing new guidelines for the industry on minimum standards of security, due to be published before the year end, which will point out that insurers should think very carefully about safety implications, particularly the need to escape from fire, before they make it a condition of the policy that keys are removed from locks at all times.

At present some insurance companies require householders to remove the keys from locks not only while they are out of the house but also at night when they are home in bed. But making it difficult for the burglar to get in, also makes it slower for the family to escape from a fire.

Mike Sibley, general branch underwriter of the Prudential, explains: "We have a stipulation that keys are removed as part and parcel of our security wording. We have had a lot of discussion about this and our view is that people generally know where they keep their keys and the incidences of fire engulfing a whole house are rarer than thefts."

If the key is left in the lock, a thief can break the glass to open the window but Mr Sibley adds: "We recommend the keys are removed because as well as we have heard of instances where the thief has been able to manipulate the key to open the lock." In fact insurance companies insist keys are removed as much

because it provides an easy exit for burglars. A thief can break into a house through a small window but he needs a larger space to carry out the television and video.

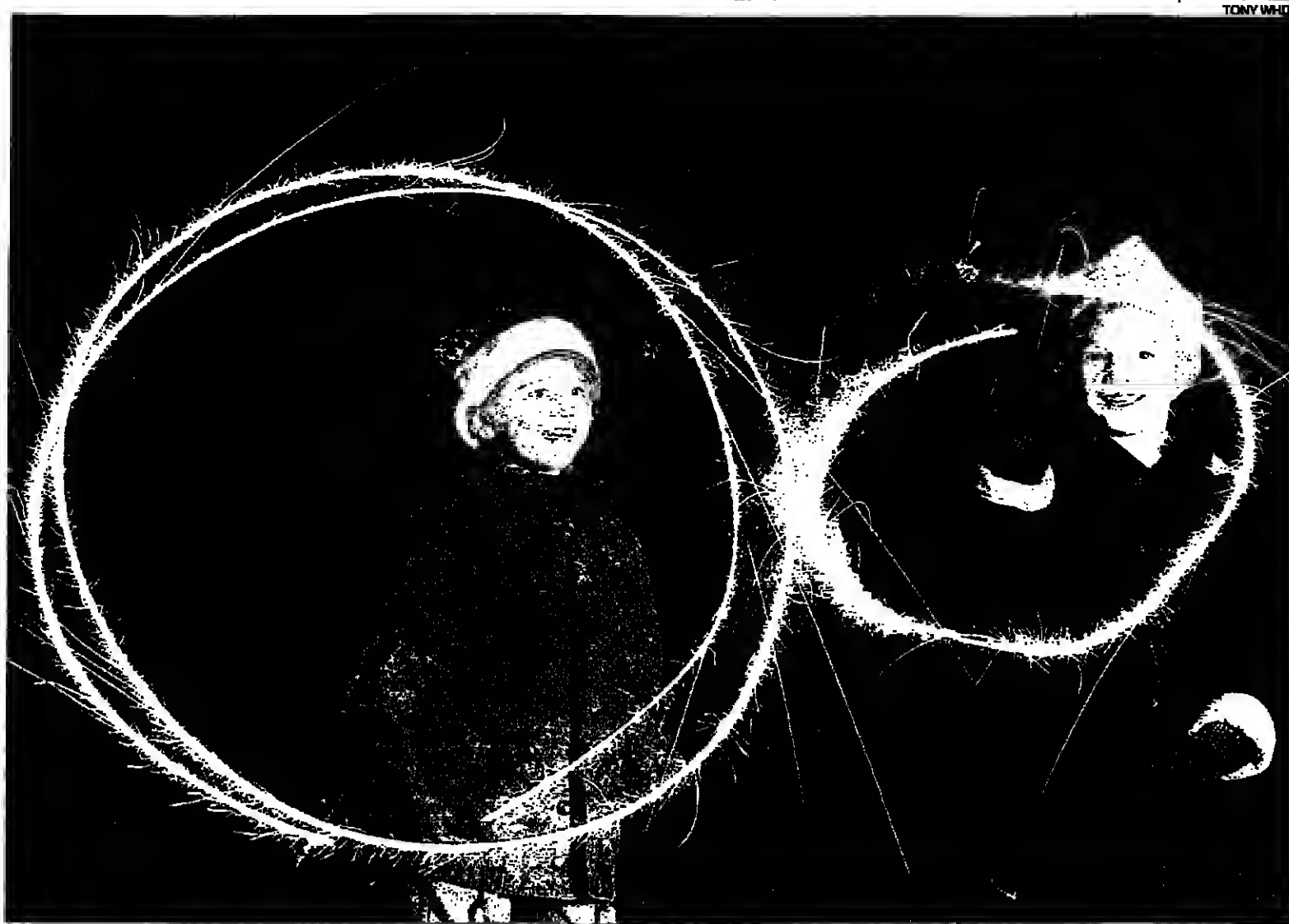
The penalties for ignoring the insurers' conditions vary as much by the type of claim as by the company. At worst, the insurer will refuse to pay up. Alternatively it may increase the premiums. Mr Sibley said: "We don't insist but, if at the time of the loss you are not in a locked or bolted position, we double the normal excess you have to pay." The usual compulsory excess with the Pru could be the first £100 or £200 of a claim in very high-risk areas but for the majority of people it is £50.

Anybody who has a discount for high security locks or burglar alarms has an additional worry. The insurance policy is in force only when the locks and alarms are activated and the company will quite likely refuse a claim if a burglar entered through an unprotected door. If the thief entered another way the discount may be withdrawn.

This gives householders the choice between being able to get out of the house fast in an emergency and being able to claim on their insurance policy if they are burgled.

In August, Norwich Union changed its stance and now allows theft claims even if the keys have been left in the locks at night. NTU said: "For people in inner city areas we used to insist all keys were removed from locks but we spoke to the fire safety authorities and decided it made good sense not to insist. If you are woken at night you are bleary eyed anyway and it is not sensible to have to hunt for the key." Norwich Union and Sun Alliance insist on minimum levels of security for policyholders in highest-risk areas, in which case keys must be removed in the day but may be replaced at night which is not too onerous for doors but tedious for window locks. Some companies allow a bedroom window to be left open at night for ventilation.

Lloyds Bank this week produced a guide to home protection and launched a 24-hour helpline for customers in high risk areas giving advice on locks and bolts and information about local locksmiths.



Children who suffer accidents are not covered by their parents' household contents policy as they are considered to be joint policyholders

## Take cover into account for home fireworks

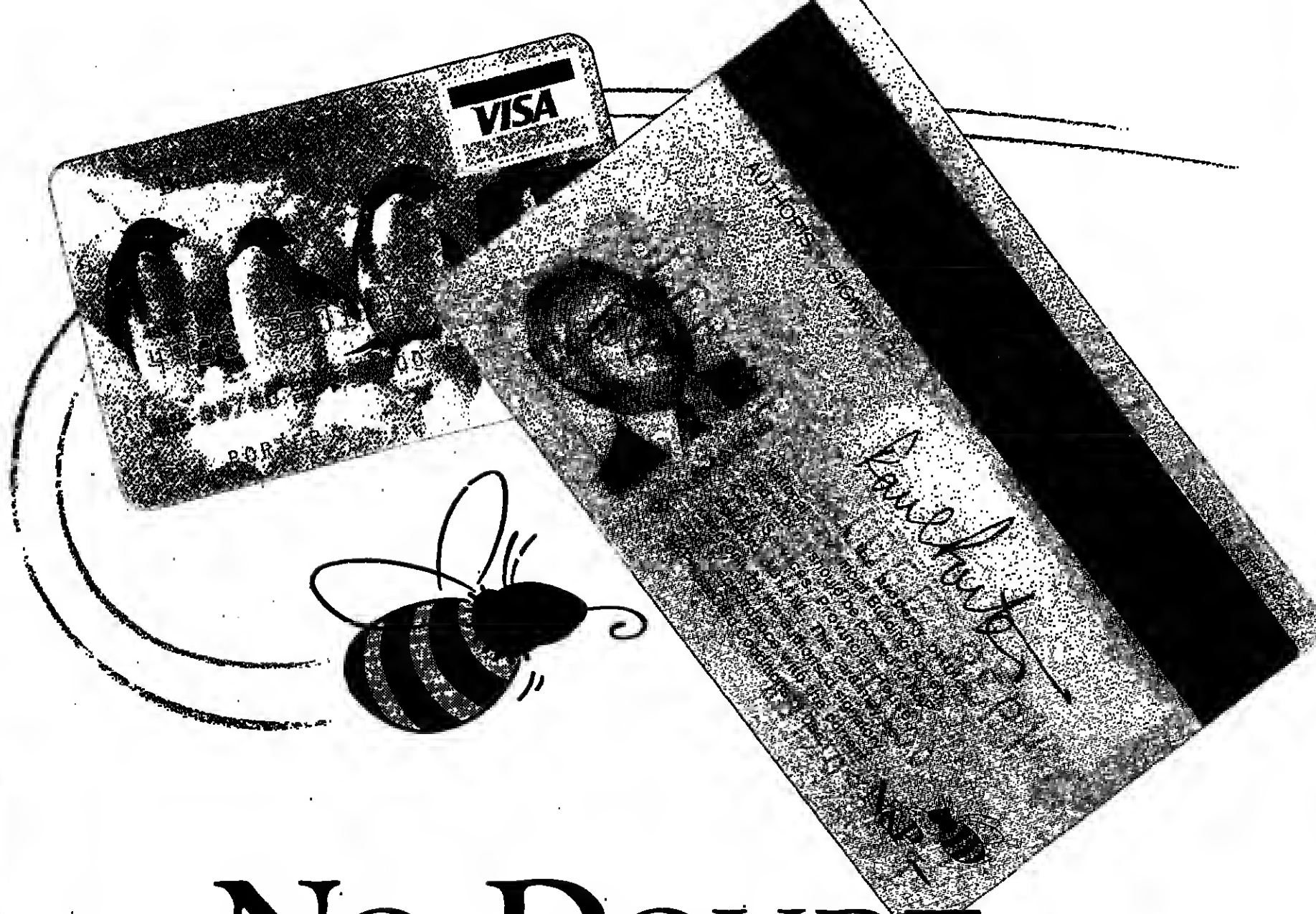
TODDLERS whirling sparklers around can turn a family bonfire night into a tragedy. The Department of Trade and Industry says sparklers were responsible for more injuries last year than any other firework. Some children as young as one or two suffered serious burns (Liz Dolan writes).

The DTI has launched a nationwide safety campaign this year following news of a surprise increase in firework accidents last November. After falling steadily from 2,500 in the early 1970s, accidents requiring hospital treatment soared in 1992 by 30 per cent to 942.

Children cannot claim under the liability section of their parents' household contents policy as all occupants are considered to be joint policyholders, explains the Association of British Insurers. Neighbours' children may be able to claim, but only if negligence by the householder can be proved.

Sheds and fences are normally covered by buildings policies and shed contents by household insurance. Negligence would again have to be proved by a neighbour trying to claim for a damaged outbuilding or fence.

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# Bank gunning for deposit cowboys

The Bank of England is cracking down on illegal deposit-takers and has called on the public to blow the whistle on suspicious characters, reports Margaret Dibben

Wormwood Scrubs, a barracks in Northern Ireland, a brother in Toxteth and the back seat of a two-door Ford Fiesta might not appear to have much in common, but all are locations where Bank of England enforcement agents have interviewed crooks for illegally taking deposits.

Members of the Bank's hit squad are no strangers to dawn raids and sometimes they take a police escort on their stings because their targets have such a history of violence.

The Bank of England has become so concerned at the growth in fraudulent firms that illegally take deposits from unsuspecting savers that it has issued a leaflet telling the public how to avoid falling into the clutches of crooks. It is positively encouraging people to inform on any suspicious characters (see phone number below).

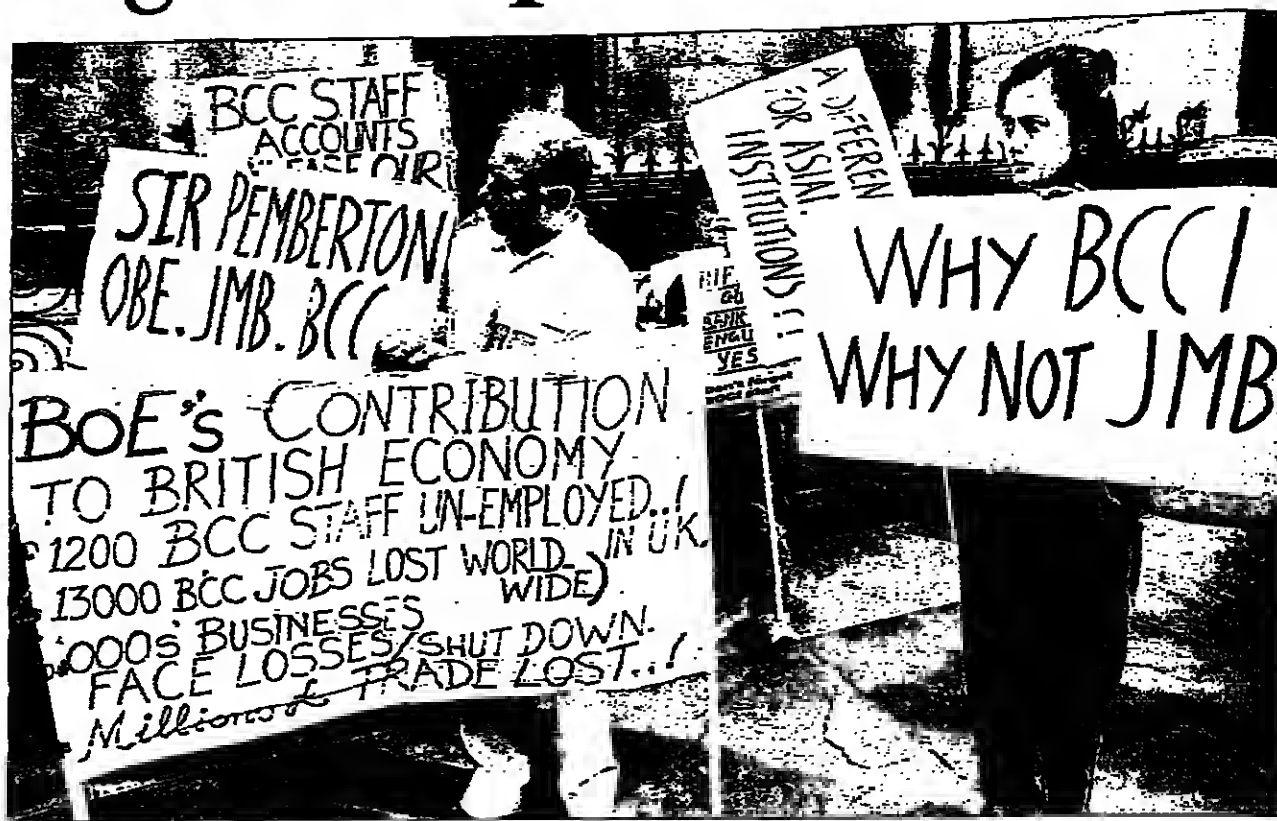
Currently the Bank is investigating 40 cases involving some £50 million. There are two broad offences: taking deposits without authorisation and inducing someone to make a deposit with fraudulent or dishonest promises, the more serious offence. In the past couple of years they have made three successful prosecutions with the guilty parties, ending up in prison. Two

more cases will reach the courts in the next few months.

A Bank official described the misery that has encouraged them to go public: "Some elderly people have been forced to return to work after losing their savings; others have lost the money they had put aside for a nursing home. In one case an 81-year-old widow lost money to a crook who drove 250 miles to persuade her to deposit £2,000 in what he said were charitable purposes which also provided a good return." Rarely do victims get any money back. He added: "Victims often find it hard to accept that they have lost money because the person they dealt with was someone they trusted, perhaps a minister in the local church, their accountant or financial adviser."

The purpose of the leaflet is to alert potential savers to the dangers of dealing with anybody who does not have Bank of England authorisation. The Bank official (they remain anonymous for fear of reprisals) says: "The leaflet explains how the public can check whether institutions and people are authorised to accept deposits. The main message is that the public should be very wary indeed about placing money with people who are not authorised to accept it."

The warning signs, says the



Depositors, such as those pictured above, who lost money in the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) — which had been licensed by the Bank of England — saw any chance of early compensation disappear this week. The Luxembourg Court ruled that a deal proposed by the main shareholder, Abu Dhabi, was not fair to everyone. Creditors might now have to wait ten years for any money although campaigners are putting pressure on the government to bail out UK depositors.

Many of those who had sterling deposits in UK branches of Bank, are unusually high interest rates, unbelievably good deals, someone calling themselves a bank but without a high street branch and anything that sounds complicated. If something looks doubtful, the Bank will gladly confirm whether the outfit is properly authorised, but it

stresses that being on the Bank's list does not mean that it is guaranteed by the Bank or government.

If the bank is authorised and it crashes, then compensation may be payable from the Deposit Protection Fund. But if money is handed to an unauthorised deposit-taker

there is no protection from any compensation scheme and all the money will almost certainly be lost.

An official added: "The Bank has limited powers to seek repayment where deposits have been taken illegally but experience shows that all too frequently there are insufficient assets for repayment to be of much comfort."

**Money in the Bank** — a Guide for Depositors is available free through post offices. Citizens Advice Bureaux and public libraries, and from the Public Liaison Group at the Bank of England, 071-601 4878.

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## 'I know that I was a fool. I thought I was the only one'

Churchgoers were left without recourse when the minister stole their savings



Pettit lost £25,000 in total

Members of a Methodist congregation in Lancashire were left bewildered and broke when it was discovered their minister had been illegally taking their money for years. None of the worshippers had a penny of compensation from the Bank of England protection scheme because the minister had been taking deposits without authorisation so the scheme does not apply (Margaret Dibben writes).

In court, the Rev Clifford Chesworth, 76, admitted taking deposits, probably more than £2 million although the Bank of England could uncover only £1.2 million, all of which was lost. He took mainly from elderly worshippers and friends. Some gave will-

ingly because he offered interest rates as high as 100 per cent for three months. He was given 12 months' imprisonment in March and has now been released.

George Pettit of Preston has known Mr Chesworth for 30 years. He said: "I put my faith in him and trusted him although I refused a lot of times to give him any money be-

cause I kept it in the building society. In 1990, he actually got me when I was on holiday saying he was desperate for money and I sent him £2,000. That was my first mistake because from then on I was badgered until I parted with my whole £25,000 lump sum.

"I wasn't tempted by the high interest because I told him I didn't want as much as that. At times I became desperate and had cheques from him. I could wallpaper the bedroom with them. The Midland Bank told me not to put any more cheques in. At one point he gave me a cheque for £30,000, my money back and interest. I put it in the bank three times but it failed. Another cheque for £40,000 also failed.

"I know I was a fool. I thought I was the only one but I started looking round the church and noticed some people looking miserable and found a lot of widows, spinners and retired people had done the same thing as me. I know of 18 in my church. One lady gave him £140,000."

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# Don't sell in May and go away — study the form

Liz Dolan talks to the author of a novel guide to the best and worst times to buy and sell shares

Investors should control any urge to put any more money into the stock market until December 15. They should then seriously consider selling in the first half of next year, probably at the end of January but possibly the end of April. But they should only do this if share prices close higher on December 31 than they did at the end of June.

This rather complex procedure is one likely to be adopted over the next few months by users of a new stock market investment guide, published in the form of an investors' diary. David Schwarz, a former market researcher, has used historical data to produce an investment system that just might prove more reliable than sticking a pin in a list of FT-SE stocks, reading the tea leaves or following the advice of a broker.

The guide tells investors what is most likely to happen in any given week of the year. This information is a distillation of every weekly change in the FT-30 index since 1935, and in the FT-100 since 1962. "I just took all the figures, fed them into my computer and tried to spot patterns," Mr Schwarz says. "Stock market folklore tells us there are patterns but, to my knowledge, no-one has tried to define them before."

According to his analysis, April is the most consistently profitable month, typically rising at a rate equivalent to an 89-point rise in the FT-SE 100 at current levels. June is the worst, falling an average 0.76 per cent, or 23 points on the FT-SE 100. November is capricious and can go either way. Early December tends to do badly, but late December is a peach. So is January. February is bad news.

If, as seems likely, shares at the end of this year finish at a higher level than at the end of June, the market is virtually certain to be lower by the end of the first six months of 1994. Mr Schwarz predicts. This is because the indices will have finished higher for the sixth



Old-time stockjobbers looking for a lead — seasonal trends could help the rest of us

half-year in a row, only the third time since 1935 that the market has managed six consecutive half-yearly rises. The others were in the 1950s and 1960s. A seventh consecutive rise is, in historical terms, impossible.

The usefulness of old stock market maxims is mixed. Mr Schwarz has discovered. The saying *As January goes, so goes the year*, turns out to be

remarkably accurate, as the market's performance in January often provides a useful pointer to the rest of the year. But *Sell in May and go away — and don't come back 'til Leger Day* is not so reliable. The first week of May is normally a good one for investors, so it is worth waiting until the second week before selling. From then until the end of July, the stock market

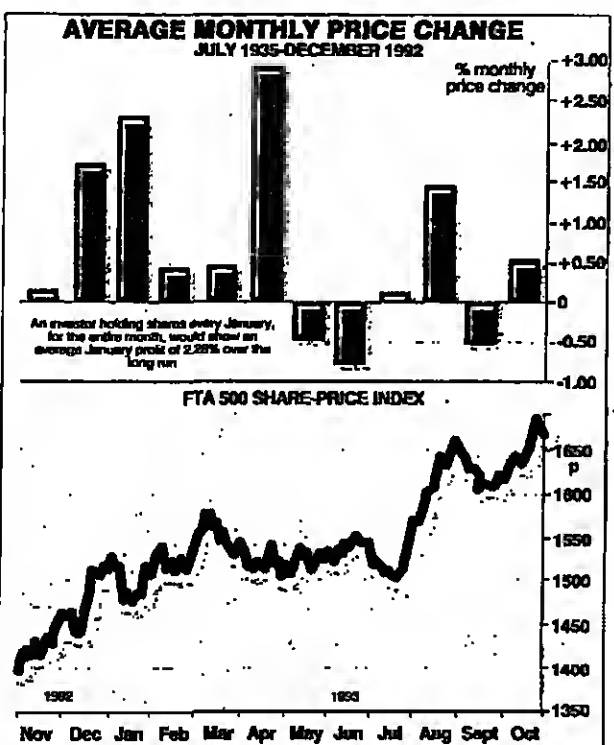
tends to mark time, just as the old rhyme predicts. However, traditionalists who then decide to lie low until the St Leger in mid-September, would be missing out on August, which, according to Mr Schwarz, is historically the fourth best performing month.

September is normally a time of quiet progress, punctuated by the odd earth-shattering upheaval. The effects of these one-off events can be either catastrophic (such as the second world war), or beneficial (the collapse of the ERM), but will either way make nonsense of average performance figures.

This does not mean September should be avoided by investors. For some reason, all the really big September falls, and most of the smaller ones, happened when share prices in the preceding January fell by 2 per cent or more. This is known as the January Effect and has no basis in logic, although it happens with remarkable consistency. Mr Schwarz is bemused.

He concedes that the major flaw in his system is that most private shareholders would lose most, or all, of their profits in dealing costs if they dodged in and out of the market all the time. "But it's still worth knowing the best times to buy and sell," he says.

The 1994 Investor's Diary costs £24.95 from Burleigh Publishing Company (0453 883975).



## Bargains for first-time buyers

First-time buyers now need to spend less on their mortgage than at any time in the last decade, according to a new housing index.

The TSB Affordability Index shows that typical first-time buyers spend 26 per cent of their monthly take-home pay on their mortgage. When house prices peaked in 1990, the first-time buyer would have to use 67 per cent of their take-home pay to pay the mortgage. Even one year ago,

An affordability index has brought good news for those in the market for mortgages, Jill Insley discovers

when house prices had plummeted in the South East and East Anglia, the average first-time buyer mortgage would cost 38 per cent.

John Stewart, a property market consultant and editor of the index for the TSB, says the increased affordability of typical first-time buyer property is "brilliant" news for home owners, any businesses connected to the housing market and the government. He said: "First-time buyers are the lifeblood of the market. About 40 per cent of transactions involve first-time buyers and they mean chains can be built. From their point of view, affordability is critical."

However, the affordability figure of 26 per cent assumes mortgage interest tax relief (MIRAS) at the lower tax rate on the first £30,000 of the mortgage. This is currently worth

£50 per month for any mortgage of £30,000 or more. From April 1994, interest tax relief will only be available on the first £20,000, while National Insurance contributions increase from 9 per cent to 10 per cent of income, reducing affordability to 28 per cent.

If the Chancellor abolishes mortgage tax relief altogether in the Budget, affordability would drop to 32 per cent. The quarterly index takes into consideration the average age and income of the house buyer, house price, mortgage rate, income tax and National Insurance contributions, and size of mortgage. Whereas simpler house price-to-earnings ratios suggest an improvement in home affordability of just one third since 1989, the TSB index shows an improvement of about two thirds. The survey shows that

the gap in home affordability between the north and south has narrowed considerably since 1990. Then a single adult with a home in the north might spend 39 per cent of his or her take home pay on the mortgage, while a southerner might spend 37 per cent — a gap of 48 per cent. Today, that gap has narrowed to just 7 per cent, with the northerner spending 23 per cent of take home pay and the southerner spending 30 per cent.

Affordability is now 31 per cent in Greater London, 30 per cent in the South East, 27 per cent in the South West and Scotland, 25 per cent in Wales and West Midlands, 24 per cent in East Anglia and the North West, and 23 per cent in the East Midlands, Humberside, Yorkshire and North East. While a single man might have expected to spend 61 per cent of his wage packet on the mortgage in 1990, and a single woman would have spent an average of 82 per cent, the man would now spend 24 per cent and a woman 31 per cent.

Mr Stewart said: "If affordability can be kept at current levels for a period, it will be the best fillip for the market for a good ten years."

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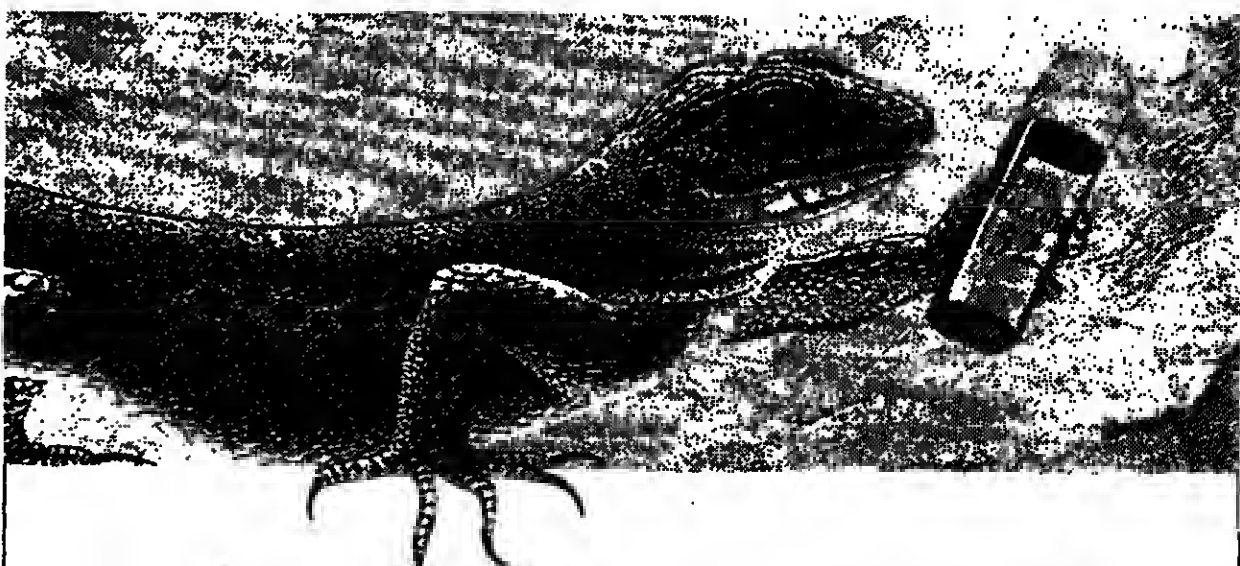
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# Plessey pensioners go to war

Withdrawal of free private health cover for life, promised as part of an early retirement package, has led to concerted action. Liz Dolan reports

The grey panthers are toughening up their act. Where once they might simply have growled over their Horlicks about perceived unfair, or even wrongful, decisions by company pension trustees, pensioners are now manning the barricades in increasing numbers.

A group of retired managers from Plessey (UK) is one of the latest examples of this growing trend. They are planning to take GEC and Siemens, Plessey's new owners, to court over their decision to withdraw the pensioners' rights to free private health insurance for life, originally promised to them on retirement.

Kenneth Lilley, one of 450 pensioners involved in the action, says: "Fairly rapidly after the takeover in 1989, the new owners issued an edict saying the benefit would be progressively withdrawn. I wrote to 50 people and we asked GEC for a meeting. We also asked for a list of the other people affected. As far as I know, there are about 2,000."

GEC refused both requests. Advertisements in the national press flushed out 700 pensioners and, bowing to the weight of numbers, both GEC and Siemens then agreed to meet their representatives. Nothing changed.

"Basically, they said they couldn't afford an open-ended commitment," Mr Lilley says. "But it isn't open-ended. Those involved will eventually die."

Legal action became the only option. Mr Lilley agrees that time is not on their side. The British legal system is not known for its speedy resolution of cases and "we are, by definition, a wasting asset," he says. The litigants range in age from 65 to nearly 90. Many are widows of the original employees.

GEC has already asked for an extension of time to prepare its defence.

The Lucas pensioners, fighting the lawful decision by the company to take millions of pounds from the pension fund

**'We want a fast-track case in view of the ages of the people'**

to pay shareholders' dividends, have already been waiting a year for their first proper court hearing.

The case involving the pensioners of Philips, where they are opposing changes to their private health cover, has been dragging on for three years, with no resolution yet in sight.

Pensioners are likely to be more wary than most when it comes to committing themselves to potentially enormous bills in the future, and Mr Lilley's gang of 700 dwindled to 450 the moment the question of legal costs arose. Each

of those involved in the legal action has contributed £140 to the fighting fund. This will be topped up by further contributions where needed.

"A lot of people are nervous about the other side's costs if we lose the case," Mr Lilley admits. "But we have done our sums. Everyone is well aware of the situation. We are going to fight them all the way."

Mark Hatfield, the Plessey pensioners' solicitor, says: "We are asking for a fast-track case in view of the ages of the people involved. We are trying to get a hearing as close as possible to the end of March when the benefits run out, but it is more likely to be during the summer."

He says the pensioners were told that they would have private health insurance for life, provided they retired and took their pensions immediately. "We say that right crystallised at the moment of going into retirement. A lot of these people tell me that the free medical cover played an important part in their decision to take early retirement."

Since Mr Hatfield took the Plessey case, he has already been contacted by two other groups of pensioners with similar problems. David Newlands, finance director of GEC, would say only that both Siemens and GEC believed that they have behaved correctly. The matter was now largely *sub judice*, he said.



Pensioner Ken Lilley is going to "fight all the way" and is hoping for a speedy decision

## Drive for fair play on small firms' pensions

An employer as sole trustee of workers' funds is a risk. Sara McConnell reports

Insurers managing pension contributions for small companies where the employer is also the sole trustee should have the power to warn scheme members if contributions are not paid over, the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service (Opas) said this week.

There is still evidence that pension contributions made by employees of small businesses are not always paid into the scheme, Opas says in its annual report. "This invariably occurs when an employer is in financial difficulties and is desperately searching for any means possible to increase cash flow," Opas says. "We have also seen a number of cases where cheques issued by insurers in respect of scheme benefits have

found their way into overdrawn company bank accounts and are effectively 'lost' when the company then goes into liquidation."

Insured schemes, many run by small employers, accounted for nearly half the 2,496 major enquiries received by Opas last year. The schemes are run by insurance companies, which receive and invest contributions from employers and employees. Insurers will know if contributions have not been paid, but say that they can only deal with

scheme members through the trustee. If the sole trustee is the employer diverting the contributions, there is no safeguard for employees. Professor Roy Goode proposed in his review of pension law that trustees should warn employees if employers had not paid over contributions for three months, but this has no effect if the employer is the sole trustee. Don Hall, Opas's chief executive, said: "Professor Goode has rather ducked the issue of small schemes."

Invariably, members do not learn

that their contributions have not been paid over until the company folds, which brings more problems. Mr Hall said: "The problem when the company is wound up is that there are no trustees who can act because of the system of employers acting as sole trustee. Members get impatient, but the insurance company says it can only deal with the trustee. The only option is, sometimes, for members to go to court."

Opas wants insurers allowed to act as "second trustees" in schemes where there is only one trustee. Under the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1987, trustees of schemes where the employer has not paid contributions can generally claim up to one year's employer and

employee contributions from the National Insurance fund.

Problems with terminating small insured schemes accounted for 78 per cent of queries to Opas about such plans. "It is a cause for concern that in many cases where the company was the sole trustee, considerable difficulty is being experienced in progressing scheme windups, with scheme members waiting far too long for authoritative information," Opas said.

Even when the employer is not the sole trustee, Opas finds problems, including a case in which a company went into liquidation without having formally documented the setting up of its scheme for its employees.

### BRIEFINGS

Northern Rock is offering a fixed-rate mortgage to first-time buyers at 4.5 per cent. The arrangement fee has been halved to £100. All home-buyers are offered the choice of a two-year fix at 5.75 per cent, three years at 6.4 per cent or four years at 6.85 per cent.

□ The Britannia has a one-year fixed-rate mortgage pegged at 4.8 per cent for first-time buyers borrowing 90 per cent or less of the property's

value. Those borrowing 95 per cent get a 4.95 per cent fix instead. The arrangement fee for the mortgage is £150, or £50 for completions before December 31. Britannia is also offering a two-year fix with rates ranging between 6.75 per cent and 5.99 per cent, depending on the percentage borrowed.

□ A new private medical insurance package from the Hale Clinic provides cover for alternative, as well as conventional, medical treatments. As well as traditional private medical insurance cover, it offers up to four health checks a year followed, if necessary, by complementary, or conventional, treatments. The clinic

says that the emphasis is on prevention. Details can be obtained on: 071 631 0156/637 3377.

□ People making new or additional investments in Skipton Building Society's portfolio bond before December 31 get an extra 1 per cent allocation of units. Those buying units in any of Henderson Unit Trusts Management's four European funds during November get a 1 per cent discount.

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□ Please confirm receipt of my cheque and send my Guaranteed Equity Bond II application form together with full Terms and Conditions.

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Full name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**71% Growth over one year**

Based on the offer prices of units to 1st October, 1993.



LETTERS

Rhodesian pensioners

From Mr F. N. Pusinelli

Sir, This association fights on behalf of the more than 25,000 pensioners (including widows) who served in British dependencies overseas in the former Colonial Service (or any similar). We have constantly pressed the British government to give fair treatment to those public service pensioners who served the Crown in Rhodesia, as urged by Mr P.S. Jones (Letters, October 16).

The strong moral arguments in the case have not been satisfactorily answered by the government, who have taken refuge in the excuse that they cannot distinguish such Rhodesian pensioners from others who served in the colonies on comparable terms regarded as locally based,

Just get on with your games



GED

Shedding light on computers

From Mr Ron Footter

Sir, Mr Bird (Letters, October 16) should know that computers do not make numerical errors.

Obviously, the cost of one lamp, with VAT, is, say, £0.553, rounded to 55p and, therefore, the cost of three lamps is £1.659, rounded to £1.66.

Yours faithfully,  
RON FOOTTER,  
24 Bowford Avenue,  
Bexleyheath, Kent.

rather than of expatriate type. This ignores the very special features of the Rhodesian situation.

The saving in the pensions bill is offset in the case of such pensioners living in Britain (and there are many living

overseas) by their increasingly necessary claims on Social Security benefits. We believe that the Government should accept financial, as well as moral, responsibility for these pensioners before it is too late for them.

Yours faithfully,  
F N PUSINELLI,  
Chairman  
Overseas Service  
Pensioners Association,  
138 High Street,  
Tonbridge,  
Kent.

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
<b>BANKS</b>			
Ordinary Dep A/c	0.35	0.30	1,000 7 day
Fixed Term Deposits:			
Barclays	3.70	3.70	25,000-50,000 1 mth
Lloyds	3.14	3.14	10,000-no max 1 mth
Midland	3.70	3.70	10,000-no max 1 mth
NatWest	3.19	3.19	25,000-50,000 3 mth
<b>HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS</b>			
Bank of Scotland	3.26	3.26	2,500+ none
Barclays	1.88	1.88	2,500+ none
Co-operative	0.35	0.35	500+ none
Citibank	3.75	3.75	2,000+ none
Lloyds	0.35	0.35	10,000 none
Midland	1.50	1.50	2,000+ none
NatWest	1.13	1.13	500+ none
Scottish Bank	1.50	1.51	2,000+ none
TSB Bank	1.88	1.88	2,000+ none
<b>BUILDING SOCIETIES</b>			
Ordinary Share	0.75	0.75	50+ none
Best buy - largest socs:			
Bristol & West	5.51	5.51	50,000 min Postal
Yorkshire Bldg	4.75	4.75	50,000 min Postal
Wolverhampton	4.50	4.50	50,000 min 1 year
Best buy - all socs:			
North of England	5.51	5.51	25,000 min Postal
North of England	5.51	5.51	25,000 min 30 day
St Pancras	5.59	5.59	25,000 min 60 day
National County	5.59	5.59	50,000 min 90 day
Homebase	5.44	5.44	5,000 min 1 year

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
<b>NATIONAL SAVINGS</b>			
Ordinary A/c	3.75	2.81	500-10,000 8 day
Investment A/c	6.25	4.85	20-24,999 1 mth
Income Bond	7.00	5.25	2,000-24,999 3 mth
100 Index Linked	3.25	100-10,000	100-10,000 8 day
100 Index Linked	3.75	5.75	100-10,000 8 day
Young Plan	5.75	5.75	20-400mth 14 day
Callender's Bond	7.00	7.00	25-1,000
Gen Est Plan	3.75	3.75	100-250,000
Capital Bond	7.75	5.81	1,000-250,000
1st Option Bond	4.75	4.75	1,000-250,000
<b>GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS</b>			
ALICO	4.55	4.55	60,000 min 1 y
Consolidated LI	5.75	4.25	2,000 min 2 y
Prosperity Life	5.55	5.55	15,000 min 3 y
General Portfolio	5.70	5.70	50,000 min 4 y
London & Leicester	5.50	5.50	2,000 min 5 y

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
<b>RATES</b>			
RPI (Sept 92-93)	+1.8%		
Bank Base Rate	8%		
Personal Loan	25%		
Credit Card	25-27%		
<b>HOLIDAY RATES</b>			
Spanish Pesetas	192.00		
French Francs	8.47		
Greek Drachmas	347.00		
Italian Lire	2375.00		
<b>TESSA</b>			
1 year	8.05		
2 year	8.00		
3 year	8.00		
4 year	7.90		
5 year	7.87		

Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY

Methods of payment for solicitors

From Mr Edmund Howard

Sir, Mr Thomas Mathew's letter (Weekend Money Letters, October 23) raises the larger question about the present method of solicitors charging by the time spent. That very experienced solicitor, Mr Edwin Field, the Victorian law reformer, thought that solicitors should be paid either an agreed sum, or on a commission basis.

For conveyancing, the Solicitors Remuneration Order, 1880, fixed a scale of charges which were in fact a commission based on the size of the transaction.

This has now been discarded. For probate, a commission based on the size of the estate is perfectly practicable. Of course, there would be cases where a commission was not appropriate.

There are many advantages in such a method of payment.

1. The client would at the outset be able to calculate the cost of employing the solicitor.

2. The cost would be proportionate to the amount involved.

3. The solicitor would be prevented from making extortionate charges.

4. The solicitor would be saved the cost of keeping records to substantiate the time spent.

5. Payment by commission would encourage despatch. The present system is positive encouragement to solicitors to spend as long as possible on the job.

Yours faithfully,  
EDMUND HEWARD,  
36a Dartmouth Row,  
Greenwich, SE10.

From Peter J. R. Bradley

Sir, The comments of Mr Mathew concerning wills reminded me of my father's estate (such as it was). The Midland Bank executor, after a few minutes' conversation, walked away saying he was unable to deal with the matter and we must settle the estate. It subsequently transpired that the estate value would be less than their charges. I do hope that it listens more now than it did 18 years ago.

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. R. BRADLEY,  
14 Well Street, Buckingham.

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<b>BUILDING SOCIETIES</b>				
Birmingham Bldg	3.95	to £150K	95	Rate shown is discounted to 1.7.94
National Counties	3.90	to £100K	95	Rate shown after 4% discount to 1.6.94
Northern Rock	3.85	to £150K	75	Rate shown after 4% discount to 1.4.95
<b>BANKS</b>				
Royal Bank of Scot	3.90	negotiable	80	Rate shown after 4% discount for 8 mths
<b>BANKS</b>				
Bank of Ireland	3.75	to £150K	75	Rate shown is capped or fixed to 1.1.95

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To: Rothschild Asset Management Limited, Five Arrows House, St Swithin's Lane, London EC4N 8NR. Please send me information about the Five Arrows Japanese Smaller Companies Fund.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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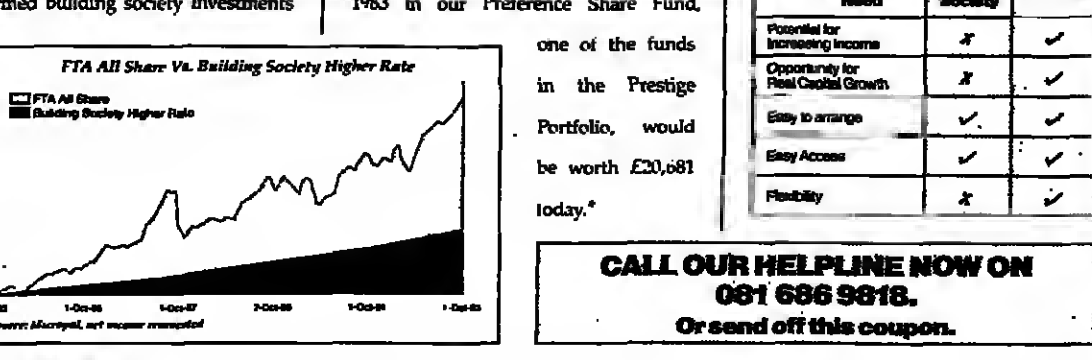
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Unit	Offer	Price	Change
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS			
Abbey Bond	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Growth	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Income	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Property	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey World	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey US	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Asia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Europe	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Japan	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Australia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey New Zealand	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey South Africa	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Hong Kong	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Taiwan	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Korea	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey India	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey China	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Russia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Brazil	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Mexico	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Argentina	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Chile	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Peru	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Colombia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Venezuela	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Ecuador	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Bolivia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Paraguay	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Uruguay	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Cuba	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Haiti	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Dominican Republic	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Jamaica	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Barbados	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Trinidad and Tobago	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Guyana	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Suriname	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey French Guiana	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Guadeloupe	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Martinique	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Reunion	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Mayotte	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey French Polynesia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey New Caledonia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Wallis and Futuna	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey French Southern Territories	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Monaco	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey San Marino	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Vatican City	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Liechtenstein	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Andorra	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Gibraltar	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Jersey	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Guernsey	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Isle of Man	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Channel Islands	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey British Virgin Islands	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Cayman Islands	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Anguilla	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Antigua and Barbuda	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Aruba	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Bahamas	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Barbados	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Belize	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Bermuda	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Bolivia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Brazil	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Canada	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Chile	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Colombia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Costa Rica	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Cuba	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Cyprus	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Czech Republic	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Denmark	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Dominican Republic	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Ecuador	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Egypt	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey El Salvador	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey England	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Estonia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Finland	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey France	10.00	10.00	0.00
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Abbey Guatemala	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Hong Kong	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Hungary	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Iceland	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey India	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Indonesia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Ireland	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Israel	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Italy	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Japan	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Kazakhstan	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Korea	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Kuwait	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Kyrgyzstan	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Laos	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Latvia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Lithuania	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Luxembourg	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Macao	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Macedonia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Malawi	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Malaysia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Maldives	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Mali	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Malta	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Mauritania	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Mauritius	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Mexico	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Moldova	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Monaco	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Mongolia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Montenegro	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Morocco	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Mozambique	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Myanmar	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Namibia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Nepal	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Netherlands	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey New Zealand	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Nicaragua	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Niger	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Nigeria	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Norway	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Oman	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Pakistan	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Panama	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Papua New Guinea	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Paraguay	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Peru	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Philippines	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Poland	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Portugal	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Romania	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Russia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Rwanda	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Saudi Arabia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Senegal	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Serbia and Montenegro	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Singapore	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Slovakia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Slovenia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey South Africa	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey South Korea	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Spain	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Sri Lanka	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Sweden	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Switzerland	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Taiwan	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Tanzania	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Thailand	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Timor	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Togo	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Tonga	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Trinidad and Tobago	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Tunisia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Turkey	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Uganda	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Ukraine	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey United Kingdom	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey United States	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Uruguay	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Uzbekistan	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Venezuela	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Vietnam	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Wales	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Wallis and Futuna	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey West Bank	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Western Sahara	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Yemen	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Zambia	10.00	10.00	0.00
Abbey Zimbabwe	10.00	10.00	0.00

Unit	Offer	Price	Change	Unit	Offer	Price	Change
3.50	-	120.80	-15.00	...	French Growth	74.81	74.81
3.40	-	121.10	15.00	...	French Income	74.81	74.81
0.60	-	123.30	15.00	...	Hong Kt Growth	60.17	60.17
0.60	-	123.30	15.00	...	Hong Kt Income	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	India Growth	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	India Income	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	Japan Growth	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	Japan Income	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	Latin America Growth	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	Latin America Income	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	UK Growth	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	UK Income	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	US Growth	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	US Income	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	World Growth	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	World Income	60.17	60.17
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	...	...	...
...	-	123.30	15.00	...	...	...	...
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# Scrappy end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 18. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day November 8. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. All adjustments are made when a stock is redividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000
1001	1001	1001	1001
1002	1002	1002	1002
1003	1003	1003	1003
1004	1004	1004	1004
1005	1005	1005	1005
1006	1006	1006	1006
1007	1007	1007	1007
1008	1008	1008	1008
1009	1009	1009	1009
1010	1010	1010	1010
1011	1011	1011	1011
1012	1012	1012	1012
1013	1013	1013	1013
1014	1014	1014	1014
1015	1015	1015	1015
1016	1016	1016	1016
1017	1017	1017	1017
1018	1018	1018	1018
1019	1019	1019	1019
1020	1020	1020	1020
1021	1021	1021	1021
1022	1022	1022	1022
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1024	1024	1024	1024
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1027	1027	1027	1027
1028	1028	1028	1028
1029	1029	1029	1029
1030	1030	1030	1030
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1032	1032	1032	1032
1033	1033	1033	1033
1034	1034	1034	1034
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1037	1037	1037	1037
1038	1038	1038	1038
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1080	1080	1080	1080
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1121	1121	1121	1121
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## Frank withdraws from Whitbread

NANCE Frank, the skipper of US Women's Challenge, pulled her boat out of the Whitbread Round the World yacht race yesterday after a third member of her crew decided to leave the team. Sue Crafer, the only Briton in the international crew, followed Mikaela van Kesteren, the Finnish watch leader, and Adrienne Cahalan, the Australian navigator, in deciding that she was not prepared to continue under Frank's leadership.

An hour after Crafer announced her decision in Punta del Este, Uruguay, where the fleet is resting before the next stage of the race, to Fremantle, Australia, Frank withdrew the yacht. "Damage experienced during the first leg has seriously affected our competitiveness in the race," Frank said. "We feel we just don't have enough funding to continue safely. We are extremely disappointed." Other crew members are now trying to raise sponsorship in order to continue in the race under a new name and skipper.

## Dangerfield defends

CYCLING: The final national championship event of the season, the 1.1-mile hill climb trial at Newlands Pass, Buttermere, tomorrow, includes last year's three medal winners — Stuart Dangerfield, the winner, Jeff Wright and Peter Longbottom — among the 120 starters. The race should centre on Dangerfield and Wright. Each has won once in their two meetings this autumn and Dangerfield would not be drawn on the outcome tomorrow. He won the title last year on Chapel Fell by 20sec, but does not expect the margin between first and second at Buttermere to be so great. Unlike Wright, he has not examined the climb, but plans to do so today.

## Grubb takes trophy

EQUESTRIANISM: Tim Grubb won the prestigious General Dwight Eisenhower Trophy for Britain at the Washington international show in the US Air Arena in Maryland on Thursday. He rode his grand prize horse, Ever Elan, with decisiveness, jumping several fences at a sharp angle, to win this speed event. It was the first time a British rider has won it in the 20 years of the show. The Nations' Cup team competition was won by Switzerland, the European champions, after a close fight with Canada. Britain were third.

## English hopes improve

SQUASH: The decision by Chris Dittmar, the world No. 2, to rest an injured knee beyond next month's world championships in Karachi improves the prospects for England in a qualifying group against a weakened Australian team. However, it has done little to help the comeback plans of Jahangir Khan, the former world champion, who was due to meet Jansher Khan, his Pakistani compatriot and the current world champion. Jahangir now looks certain to face Rodney Martin, the 1991 world champion from Australia, instead.

## Skiers start early

SKIING: The early start to the World Cup skiing season this weekend, on a glacier at Sölden, Austria, may bring surprise results. Alberto Tomba, the Italian slalom expert, who is recovering from a knee injury, said: "This early start has probably caught most of us still in our preparation stage. I am about 70 per cent fit and, for me, the real season starts in a month's time." Dieter Bartsch, the Norway team coach, is not expecting much from his skiers, who are normally rated among the favourites. Men and women will be competing in giant slalom races.

## Vatnen wins in Peking

MOTOR SPORT: Ari Vatnen, of Finland, led the Subaru Legacy team to a 1-2-3 finish yesterday in the Hong Kong to Peking rally. Colin McRae, of Britain, was second and Possum Bourne, of New Zealand, third. McRae won the final timed stage yesterday ahead of Vatnen and Bourne, but trailed 19sec behind the Finn overall as the rally finished near the Great Wall. The three men had exchanged the lead throughout the seven-day race, challenged only by Kenjiro Shinozuka, of Japan, in a Mitsubishi Lancer. Only 19 of the 32 cars that started the rally finished.

## Italian rider shrugs off gruelling flight to parry Australian journalists



Brent Thomson putting Drum Taps through his paces in preparation for the Melbourne Cup

## Dettori adept in role of ambassador

FROM RICHARD EVANS IN MELBOURNE

UNTIL yesterday, the unofficial role of jockey ambassador within the jockeys' room had remained vacant following the retirement of Steve Cauthen last year. Not any longer.

After landing here at 5am following a gruelling 23-hour flight from England, Frankie Dettori inherited the job as he charmed a new audience with a delightful combination of controlled exuberance and youthful statesmanship.

Despite suffering from a sore throat, the jockey was at Sandown racecourse before breakfast to see Drum Taps, his ride in the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday — only to be faced by a formidable battery of Australian camera crews and reporters.

"So, you've come to steal our Cup," was the opening bounce from a television reporter. Dettori ducked before launching his diplomatic offensive.

"We are here to compete and, of course, we are here to win, but it is a hard race. For me, almost 23, it is great to be here. It is a great experience to come to Australia and a major bonus to ride in such a prestigious race."

"I hope Drum Taps will run well because that would open the door to other horses coming here to take their chance, because we would like to see the Melbourne Cup become an international race like the Japan Cup and Breeders' Cup."

Lord Huntingdon, trainer of Drum Taps, interviewed a few yards away — "are you really related to Robin Hood?" asked one Australian journalist — could not have put it better. It is all too easy to take Dettori's personable character for granted. Having left his native Italy as a non-English speaking 14-year-old, he has rarely strayed from the sunlit path of success and now finds himself on the higher slopes leading to fame. The courtesy and humour which underpin

his lively style remain intact, although nowadays there is a wiser head on those young shoulders.

Although his body clock must have been at sixes and sevens after flying halfway round the world, Dettori smiled and charmed his way through half-a-dozen interviews before hopping into a car to return to Melbourne city centre.

At the Victoria Racing Club, he picked up his rider's licence before studying films of last year's Melbourne Cup. Already he was working out tactics, asking how Tuesday's race would be faced, who horse should he follow, who was favourite. Then came the bombshell, almost a throw-away line. "I think at his best

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Dangerous Shadow

(2.35 Newcastle)

Next best: Shintillo

(3.15 Newmarket)

Drum Taps would have won last year's Melbourne Cup by five lengths," Dettori said.

Having written off Drum Taps and Vintage Crop as 100-1 no-hopers when it was first announced the two European-trained horses would be coming here for the Cup, there has been a dramatic change in opinion among Australian trainers and racing professionals.

Although the Victoria Derby is the feature event at Flemington today, all eyes will be on the last two races of the afternoon which sees 29 of the 39 Melbourne Cup acceptors having their last-minute preparatory race. The Mackinnon Stakes, in which Dettori rides the former John Gosden-trained Landowner, has thrown up eight out of the last nine Cup winners.

**3.05 MOONMAM HANDICAP**  
(£3,348: 1m 2f 32y) (12)  
1 3321 BUREY DANCER 9 (D.F.S.) Mrs M. Revell 5-10-0  
2 200- FRANKY LINE 1901 (G) Miss L. Peratt 5-5-8 J. Carr 18  
3 5010 IMPERIAL 180 9 (D.F.S.) Denny Smith 5-2-2 C. Teague (7) 0  
4 0100 SELF EXPRSSION 14 (D.F.S.) Mrs S. Hancock 5-2-2  
5 000V IMPERIAL 1901 (G) Miss L. Peratt 5-5-8 J. Carr 18  
6 1201 BUREY DANCER 9 (D.F.S.) Mrs M. Revell 5-10-0  
7 0001 IMPERIAL 180 9 (D.F.S.) Denny Smith 5-2-2 C. Teague (7) 0  
8 0100 SELF EXPRSSION 14 (D.F.S.) Mrs S. Hancock 5-2-2  
9 000V IMPERIAL 1901 (G) Miss L. Peratt 5-5-8 J. Carr 18  
10 1201 BUREY DANCER 9 (D.F.S.) Mrs M. Revell 5-10-0  
11 0001 IMPERIAL 180 9 (D.F.S.) Denny Smith 5-2-2 C. Teague (7) 0  
12 0100 SELF EXPRSSION 14 (D.F.S.) Mrs S. Hancock 5-2-2

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.35 Memorabilia.  
GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SLOTT IN PLACES)  
DRAW: 6F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

**1.35 MOONGLOW HANDICAP**  
(£3,235: 7f) (19 runners)  
1 1400 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
2 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
3 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
4 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
5 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
6 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
7 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
8 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
9 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
10 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
11 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
12 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
13 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
14 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
15 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
16 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
17 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
18 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
19 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0

**2.05 MOON RIVER MAIDEN STAKES**  
(£3,235: 7f) (7)  
1 0001 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
2 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
3 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
4 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
5 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
6 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
7 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0

**2.35 FLY ME TO THE MOON NURSERY HANDICAP**  
(£3,235: 7f) (7)  
1 0001 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
2 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
3 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
4 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
5 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
6 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
7 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0

**2.35 FLY ME TO THE MOON NURSERY HANDICAP**  
(£3,235: 7f) (7)  
1 0001 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
2 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
3 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
4 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
5 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
6 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0  
7 0100 PRIDE OF PEARLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beckett 4-10-0

**COURSE SPECIALISTS**  
TRAINERS: 5 winners from 12 runners, 41.7% W. 1st, 14 from 25, 40.0% W. 2nd, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 3rd, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 4th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 5th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 6th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 7th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 8th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 9th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 10th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 11th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 12th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 13th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 14th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 15th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 16th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 17th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 18th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 19th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 20th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 21st, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 22nd, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 23rd, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 24th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 25th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 26th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 27th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 28th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 29th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 30th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 31st, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 32nd, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 33rd, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 34th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 35th, 11 from 25, 44.0% W. 36th, 11 from 25, 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# Jodami in good heart for early Wetherby appetiser

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

JODAMI, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, makes his seasonal reappearance at Wetherby this afternoon as any lover of National Hunt racing could expect at this early stage of the season.

The Peter Beaumont-trained eight-year-old, already the 4-1 favourite to successfully defend his crown at the Festival, squares up to Cab On Target, the 7-1 second favourite to depose him. However, the Charlie Hall Chase is far from a two-horse contest.

Adding considerable flavour to the occasion are five notable rivals. The 1991 Gold



Jodami warms up in defence of his chasing crown

## Holland split

Darryll Holland rides Nicer at Kneeland, Kentucky, today, one of his final commitments as retained jockey to Barry Hills. The Lambourn trainer and Holland, 21, have decided to split at the end of this season.

Cup winner, Garrison Savannah, recently showed he has retained his ability by giving Bradbury Star a good race at Cheltenham and Sibton Abbey, trained by Ferdie Murphy, was a game winner of last season's Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury.

Tipping Tim beat Another Coral by seven lengths in the Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham last November, while the Dick Allan-trained Pat's Jester chased home the talented French chaser The Fellow in last season's King George VI Chase at Kempton.

The field is completed by the

highly-regarded David Nicholson-trained Barton Bank, one of last season's leading novice chasers. Such is the depth of quality that a victory by any one of the septet would not constitute a great surprise.

But all eyes will be on Jodami, as Beaumont is only

too well aware. "The horse is in good fettle, but he is far from fully wound up," Beaumont said yesterday. "He will definitely be better for it. It's a long time between now and March but I'm pleased with him. He is fit enough to run a good race."

Wetherby will play host to a crowd of Boxing Day proportions for this intriguing encounter. The result may be slightly academic as far as the Gold Cup at Cheltenham next March is concerned, yet all seven trainers would dearly love the moral victory that success in this chase will bestow on the winner.

## NEWMARKET

THUNDERER  
1.10 HERR TRIGGER  
1.40 BARBAROJA (nap)  
2.10 Mellottie  
3.50 Widen  
4.20 Braveboy

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 SASSADO. 3.15 SHINTILLO (nap). The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.10 HERR TRIGGER.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

### 1.10 SUFFOLK SELLING NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,548; 1m) (25 runners)

101	(24)	280/116	SHERIFF 15 (9) (B Brown) J Hills 6-10	9	Dayles 97
102	(18)	100/110	BURLES 24 (1) (Meredith) M Tordella 9-5	10	5 Halfway 97
103	(10)	100/110	ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 18 (5) (C Buckley) M Tordella 9-5	11	Kilwin 97
104	(9)	100/110	DEER IN THE GLEN 33 (5) (D Brown) P Hickman 8-10	12	J Wren 97
105	(12)	100/110	CLASSICAL 10 (2) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	13	R Rouse 97
106	(17)	100/110	1000 TON 22 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	14	A Hill 97
107	(10)	100/110	JOHNIE 25 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	15	J Field 97
108	(22)	100/110	GLORIOUS 26 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	16	R Cochrane 97
109	(20)	100/110	2000 PETER 20 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	17	A Hill 97
110	(11)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	18	T Quinn 97
111	(21)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	19	T Quinn 97
112	(22)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	20	T Quinn 97
113	(23)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	21	T Quinn 97
114	(24)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	22	T Quinn 97
115	(25)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	23	T Quinn 97
116	(26)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	24	T Quinn 97
117	(27)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	25	T Quinn 97
118	(28)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	26	T Quinn 97
119	(29)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	27	T Quinn 97
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139	(49)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	47	T Quinn 97
140	(50)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	48	T Quinn 97
141	(51)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	49	T Quinn 97
142	(52)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	50	T Quinn 97
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144	(54)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	52	T Quinn 97
145	(55)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	53	T Quinn 97
146	(56)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	54	T Quinn 97
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150	(60)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	58	T Quinn 97
151	(61)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	59	T Quinn 97
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157	(67)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	65	T Quinn 97
158	(68)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	66	T Quinn 97
159	(69)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	67	T Quinn 97
160	(70)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	68	T Quinn 97
161	(71)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	69	T Quinn 97
162	(72)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	70	T Quinn 97
163	(73)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	71	T Quinn 97
164	(74)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	72	T Quinn 97
165	(75)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	73	T Quinn 97
166	(76)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	74	T Quinn 97
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170	(80)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	78	T Quinn 97
171	(81)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	79	T Quinn 97
172	(82)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	80	T Quinn 97
173	(83)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	81	T Quinn 97
174	(84)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	82	T Quinn 97
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180	(90)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	88	T Quinn 97
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182	(92)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	90	T Quinn 97
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184	(94)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	92	T Quinn 97
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186	(96)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	94	T Quinn 97
187	(97)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	95	T Quinn 97
188	(98)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	96	T Quinn 97
189	(99)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	97	T Quinn 97
190	(100)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	98	T Quinn 97
191	(101)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	99	T Quinn 97
192	(102)	100/110	000000 44 (5) (A Brown) P Hickman 8-10	100	T Quinn 97

Long handicap; My Song 10-10; 1-11; 1-12; 1-13; 1-14; 1-15; 1-16; 1-17; 1-18; 1-19; 1-20; 1-21; 1-22; 1-23; 1-24; 1-25; 1-26; 1-27; 1-28; 1-29; 1-30; 1-31; 1-32; 1-33; 1-34; 1-35; 1-36; 1-37; 1-38; 1-39; 1-40; 1-41; 1-42; 1-43; 1-44; 1-45; 1-46; 1-47; 1-48; 1-49; 1-50; 1-51; 1-52; 1-53; 1-54; 1-55; 1-56; 1-57; 1-58; 1-59; 1-60; 1-61; 1-62; 1-63; 1-64; 1-65; 1-66; 1-67; 1-68; 1-69; 1-70; 1-71; 1-72; 1-73; 1-74; 1-75; 1-76; 1-77; 1-78; 1-79; 1-80; 1-81; 1-82; 1-83; 1-84; 1-85; 1-86; 1-87; 1-88; 1-89; 1-90; 1-91; 1-92; 1-93; 1-94; 1-95; 1-96; 1-97; 1-98; 1-99; 1-100; 1-101; 1-102; 1-103; 1-104; 1-105; 1-106; 1-107; 1-108; 1-109; 1-110; 1-111; 1-112; 1-113; 1-114; 1-115; 1-116; 1-117; 1-118; 1-119; 1-120; 1-121; 1-122; 1-123; 1-124; 1-125; 1-126; 1-127; 1-128; 1-129; 1-130; 1-131; 1-132; 1-133; 1-134; 1-135; 1-136; 1-137; 1-138; 1-139; 1-140; 1-141; 1-142; 1-143; 1-144; 1-145; 1-146; 1-147; 1-148; 1-149; 1-150; 1-151; 1-152; 1-153; 1-154; 1-155; 1-156; 1-157; 1-158; 1-159; 1-160; 1-161; 1-162; 1-163; 1-164; 1-165; 1-166; 1-167; 1-168; 1-169; 1-170; 1-171; 1-172; 1-173; 1-174; 1-175; 1-176; 1-177; 1-178; 1-179; 1-180; 1-181; 1-182; 1-183; 1-184; 1-185; 1-186; 1-187; 1-188; 1-189; 1-190; 1-191; 1-192; 1-193; 1-194; 1-195; 1-196; 1-197; 1-198; 1-199; 1-200; 1-201; 1-202; 1-203; 1-204; 1-205; 1-206; 1-207; 1-208; 1-209; 1-210; 1-211; 1-212; 1-213; 1-214; 1-215; 1-216; 1-217; 1-218; 1-219; 1-220; 1-221; 1-222; 1-223; 1-224; 1-225; 1-226; 1-227; 1-228; 1-229; 1-230; 1-231; 1-232; 1-233; 1-234; 1-235; 1-236; 1-237; 1-238; 1-239; 1-240; 1-241; 1-242; 1-243; 1-244; 1-245; 1-246; 1-247; 1-248; 1-249; 1-250; 1-251; 1-252; 1-253; 1-254; 1-255; 1-256; 1-257; 1-258; 1-259; 1-260; 1-261; 1-262; 1-263; 1-264; 1-265; 1-266; 1-267; 1-268; 1-269; 1-270; 1-271; 1-272; 1-273; 1-274; 1-275; 1-276; 1-277; 1-278; 1-279; 1-280; 1-281; 1-282; 1-283; 1-284; 1-285; 1-286; 1-287; 1-288; 1-289; 1-290; 1-291; 1-292; 1-293; 1-294; 1-295; 1-296; 1-297; 1-298; 1-299; 1-300; 1-301; 1-302; 1-303; 1-304; 1-305; 1-306; 1-307; 1-308; 1-309; 1-310; 1-311; 1-312; 1-313; 1-314; 1-315; 1-316; 1-317; 1-318; 1-319; 1-320; 1-321; 1-322; 1-323; 1-324; 1-325; 1-326; 1-327; 1-328; 1-329; 1-330; 1-331; 1-332; 1-333; 1-334; 1-335; 1-336; 1-337; 1-338; 1-339; 1-340; 1-341; 1-342; 1-343; 1-344; 1-345; 1-346; 1-347; 1-348; 1-349; 1-350; 1-351; 1-352; 1-353; 1-354; 1-355; 1-356; 1-357; 1-358; 1-359; 1-360; 1-361; 1-362; 1-363; 1-364; 1-365; 1-366; 1-367; 1-368; 1-369; 1-370; 1-371; 1-372; 1-373; 1-374; 1-375; 1-376; 1-377; 1-378; 1-379; 1-380; 1-381; 1-382; 1-383; 1-384; 1-385; 1-386; 1-387; 1-388; 1-389; 1-390; 1-391; 1-392; 1-393; 1-394; 1-395; 1-396; 1-397; 1-398; 1-399; 1-400; 1-401; 1-402; 1-403; 1-404; 1-405; 1-406; 1-407; 1-408; 1-409; 1-410; 1-411; 1-412; 1-413; 1-414; 1-415; 1-416; 1-417; 1-418; 1-419; 1-420; 1-421; 1-422; 1-423; 1-424; 1-425; 1-426; 1-427; 1-428; 1-429; 1-430; 1-431; 1-432; 1-433; 1-434; 1-435; 1-436; 1-437; 1-438; 1-439; 1-440; 1-441; 1-442; 1-443; 1-444; 1-445; 1-446; 1-447; 1-448; 1-449; 1-450; 1-451; 1-452; 1-453; 1-454; 1-455; 1-456; 1-457; 1-458; 1-459; 1-460; 1-461; 1-462; 1-463; 1-464; 1-465; 1-466; 1-467; 1-468; 1-469; 1-470; 1-471; 1-472; 1-473; 1-474; 1-475; 1-476; 1-477; 1-478; 1-479; 1-480; 1-481; 1-482; 1-483; 1-484; 1-485; 1-486; 1-487; 1-488; 1-489; 1-490; 1-491; 1-4



# Shaq's silent attack fills superstar vacuum

Simon Barnes reports  
on the basketball  
phenomenon who is  
in London to play  
two exhibition matches

He is the most famous person in the world, they keep telling me, but perhaps you have not heard of him. Shaquille O'Neal. Famous in the United States for playing basketball and famous in this country for being famous.

And he is over here to do both those things to the very best of his ability. "Which one's him?" we asked. "The tall one," somebody said. "Doesn't narrow the field a whole lot, now does it?" "No, the very tall one." No hair. Lord, you can't be a basketball superstar and have hair stands 7ft. in. weighs 21½st, takes size 20 shoes. Shaq.

More vital stats. He is 21 and already earning absolutely impossible sums of money. His team, Orlando Magic, pays him \$6 million (about £4 million) a year, in a seven-year contract, but that is hardly worth mentioning. Only when we start talking boot-money and adverts are we into the real money.

O'Neal is the hottest property in American sport and that means, of course, world sport. Shaq and the Magic play Atlanta Hawks in exhibition games tonight and tomorrow at Wembley Arena. Do not turn up on spec. These are the most sought-after tickets in London, never mind that we Brits do not even understand the game.

But sure, the idea is the thing, and the idea is as hot, fresh, exotic and sexy as... well, Pepsi-Cola, and we have the star of stars over here to prove it. It is the American football craze all over again. The National Basketball Association (NBA) of the United States is purring and so is Reebok. O'Neal stands to make \$30 million over the next five years by selling plimsolls.

And so the grand launch, the introduction of Shaq to the British media. At a gym in West London, there were three layers of security to talk through before you were ushered in to The Presence. What an event this was going to be.

O'Neal was shown gently to a sort of preacher's lectern in the corner of the gym and the media descended. O'Neal was, literally, cornered. It was an unenviable situation to be in. He certainly did not seem to be having a great deal of fun.

Some athletes revel in the



O'Neal, the hottest property in American sport, meets the media in advance of the exhibition matches between his team, Orlando Magic, and the Atlanta Hawks. Photograph: Marc Aspland

attention. A fellow superstar, "Sir" Charles Barkley, of the Dream Team and the Phoenix Suns, never wants to leave a microphone. He is an unstoppable performer and an occasional talker of originality and startling sense.

O'Neal's technique is different. He stands very quiet and very still and waits for it all to end. He has the most wonderful defence: he talks very, very, very quietly. He is almost as famous for this as for being tall.

So they had provided a microphone and some amplification, but nothing like enough. There were two ways of hearing what O'Neal had to say. One was to fight your way to the front row, for you could not hear him from the second. The second was to press very close to the loudspeaker a few yards away. Either way you could catch getting on for half of what he said.

"Play hard... wss wss wss... always listen to your coach." This was O'Neal's

recitation of the five rules for success in basketball, but I gave up after two. A colleague was kind enough to fill me in. The fifth rule was "Never give up".

In the end, I realised what was happening. Shaquille O'Neal was not actually there at all. He had clearly achieved, after a single year of being a superstar, a feat that a few Indian mystics can manage after a lifetime of self-denial and prayer. O'Neal can permit his spirit to leave his body at

will. His spirit was clearly swirling around in more amusing parts of the cosmos, while his body remained in O'Neal, giving dumb answers to dumb questions, occasionally blinking an eye, doing out a smile.

So polite. So tall. So aware of his obligations. "Shaq, could you look at the camera and say, my name's Shaquille O'Neal and I always watch Live and Kicking?"

"My name's Shaquille O'Neal and I always watch

Live and Kicking." Lord, the great quotes I got that day.

What a relief it must be for O'Neal to get out onto a basketball court, to wreak havoc, as Barkley likes to put it. Because O'Neal can play all right. Basketball is a team sport that lends itself perfectly to the cult of the superstar, the single person around whom the team revolves, in whose presence the team has its being.

Magic Johnson retired, having tested HIV positive.

Larry Bird retired. Michael Jordan, the biggest star of them all, had stepped aside. There was a superstar vacuum and the NBA needs colossal stars or its newly established position of the world's sexiest sporting competition totters. Try telling the NBA that no player is bigger than the game. They will laugh at you.

Enter O'Neal. A giant but a wizard with a basketball as well. In his first season, he turned Orlando Magic from no-hopers to one of the top

sides — and yes, one of the biggest audience-pullers. Television loves him, therefore the world does.

And so do sellers of fizzy pop. Pepsi are paying him \$15 million to star in commercials and all the time. O'Neal remains utterly, perfectly enigmatic. I wonder what he was thinking. Hell, I wonder what on earth he was saying. But I was there, grandchild, and I clearly saw his lips move. "Play hard... wss wss wss... always listen to your coach..."

## 'Tired' Chinese scare off leading marathon rivals

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THIS time last year, two scientists from the University of California were laughed out of the lab by the athletics cognoscenti when they said that, by the end of the decade, the world's fastest marathon time might be held by a woman. Bryan Whipp and Susan Ward, from the university's school of medicine, may be offered some encouragement for their theory tomorrow morning.

While it remains unthinkable to all but Whipp and Ward that women may overtake men one day, the advances made by female Chinese have opened a debate on whether women distance runners have been under-achieving. If, as Ma Junren, the coach to the record-breaking athletes, insists, no drugs have been taken to assist performance, Ingrid Kristiansen, Grete Waitz and Liz McColgan can consider themselves fortunate to have had their day at a time when women's distance running was embryonic.

It is only in the last 11 years that the 10,000 metres and the marathon have become Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth championship events for women; only 21 years since the Olympics introduced anything for them over 800 metres. As the best five athletes from Ma's best squad of 18 go to the line tomorrow for World Cup marathon in San Sebastian, Spain, there will be a sense of anticipation that a woman will break 2hr 20min for the first time.

Ma insists not, that his athletes are tired after a long season. They are in San Sebastian, apparently, for the experience of competition and to show they are not afraid of (drug-testing). Ma has even

volunteered his athletes for blood-testing, which can trace drug use over a longer period than urine sampling can.

But Ma's propensity for verbal trickery was evidenced by his claim that caterpillar fungus tonic was one reason for his athletes' success. Later, he claimed to have been joking. Can we really believe, as he has been saying this week, that a world best is "impossible" in San Sebastian and that "all the athletes are very tired"? That said, even his athletes cannot keep up superior performances indefinitely.

Kristiansen has lost her 10,000 metres world record to Wang Junxia and believes that her world best of 2hr 21min 56sec, set in London in 1985, will not last beyond today. "I think the record will be broken by the Chinese," Kristiansen said. "I think it will be 2hr 15min. I won't be surprised if something like that happens."

The 20-year-old Wang ran a marathon in 2hr 24min 7sec shortly before winning the 10,000 metres world title in Stuttgart and setting world records for that distance and 3,000 metres in Peking last

month, marks that were ratified yesterday.

All four of Wang's teammates this weekend — Qu Yunxia, Zhang Linli, Zhang Lirong and Mi Liyang — finished within two minutes of her that day. They have frightened off the opposition. Not one of the best woman marathon runners from outside China is on the start-list. If the Chinese take the top five places, they will collect \$102,000 in prize-money. Enough to keep the turtle blood coming, an important dietary component, according to Ma, but expensive.

Some are willing to believe Ma's response to the drugs allegations. Ron Clarke says that their cadence is more suited to the job than any woman athlete he has seen and that pacemakers have inhibited the progression of records by Western athletes. The Chinese, he says, are not inhibited by where the records stand but run as they feel.

Ma ascribes success to high-mileage training, mainly at altitude in a full-time squad, daily acupuncture and massage and effective diet. His athletes have been selected by himself from his combing of the schools of Liaoning province. He picks from "peasant stock" because they are "good for training, used to enduring difficulties".

The men's world best is 2hr 6min 50sec, but a winning time inside 2hr 8min is not expected, though the course is flat. Richard Nurkovic is among the favourites, competing for a British team which is defending the men's World Cup. The women's event starts 15 minutes ahead of the men's. It should be quite a race to the finish between the Chinese women and some of the world's best men.



Wang records ratified

## Osborn returns to strengthen Reading

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

PADDY Osborn returns from a brief visit to the United States to lead Reading against Southgate in the Pizza Express national hockey league tomorrow. With Kevin fully recovered from injury, Reading are at full strength, but although Osborn and Wood relaunch their attacks effectively, they will have a hard task undermining the home side's confidence.

Teddington entertain Slough with Billson a doubtful starter because of a strained hamstring and their defence will again miss Riley, whose hip injury is expected to keep him out for at least another month. However, they have talent in abundance to establish themselves as favourites for this match. A doubt about the fitness of Banton is the only problem facing Slough and if he does not play, Cox, Partington and Hargreaves will make up the middle line.

Havant, facing a difficult home match against Old Loughtonians, have lost the injured Cross for the next two weeks and Avery's hamstring trouble adds to their problems in attack. However, Nail who had been away for several weeks sitting for examinations, is now available and may be used as a forward rather than a half-back.

East Grinstead, chasing the leaders, will be at Birmingham University for the televised match against Firebrands without Peter Head, who is replaced by Ravi Viri.

## Mullins enjoys upturn in fortunes

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN MILLSTREET, CO CORK

COMMANDANT Gerry Mullins, an army officer based at the McGee Barracks in Dublin, ended a run of bad luck when he and the 14-year-old, Lismore, won the Heineken Accumulator here yesterday.

Carl Curtis, from Britain, on Seville, who received a last-minute invitation to compete at the show, produced the round of his life to finish in joint-second place with Peter Postelmanns, of Belgium, on Omnisport Royal Moon.

Mullins, 39, who is a regular member of the Ireland team, was pleased merely to be competing at this show. At

the Millstreet outdoor show in August, he was unable to ride after Lismore was cast in his box.

Two weeks later, in Biarritz, the horse had a bad fall and required 12 stitches in his chest. Last month, he took the chestnut gelding, by Sunny Light, to the Linz Show in Austria. He arrived as "sound as a trout" but promptly succumbed to colic the next day.

Yesterday, the gelding betrayed little sign of his troubled two months. Going last of the 48 starters, he had to beat the time of 35.33sec. Lismore, who won the inaugural indoor derby at Millstreet three years ago, hurtled down the arena to the sixth fence, a big spread,

and recorded the winning time of 35.07sec. Despite his last-minute relegation to second place Curtis, from Goole, was delighted with the result. He brought the ten-year-old gelding to Ireland earlier this month to compete at two smaller shows.

"It seemed a waste to go home when Millstreet was on," he said, "so I rang the organisers to see if I could compete." Noel Duggan, the organiser of Millstreet, who prides himself on giving less experienced riders a chance to compete against the sport's top names, agreed. Duggan was as pleased as Curtis with the result.

Robert Smith and his fast gelding, Clover, were in the

lead when Curtis entered the ring. "I just decided to go for it — I had nothing to lose," Curtis said. "On his day, he's one of the fastest horses around — but he's erratic."

In the three months Curtis has been riding Lismore, they have won seven Open classes and been placed in two Area International Trials.

Geoff Luckett and his Wembley winner, Everest Vantage, produced one of the fastest times of the day but hit the last fence. Michael Whitaker and Elton, runners-up on the opening day, hit the penultimate fence.

HEINEKEN ACCUMULATOR: 1, Lismore (Curtis); 2, Clover (Smith); 3, Everest Vantage (Luckett); 4, Lismore (Curtis); 5, Lismore (Curtis); 6, Lismore (Curtis); 7, Lismore (Curtis); 8, Lismore (Curtis); 9, Lismore (Curtis); 10, Lismore (Curtis); 11, Lismore (Curtis); 12, Lismore (Curtis); 13, Lismore (Curtis); 14, Lismore (Curtis); 15, Lismore (Curtis); 16, Lismore (Curtis); 17, Lismore (Curtis); 18, Lismore (Curtis); 19, Lismore (Curtis); 20, Lismore (Curtis); 21, Lismore (Curtis); 22, Lismore (Curtis); 23, Lismore (Curtis); 24, Lismore (Curtis); 25, Lismore (Curtis); 26, Lismore (Curtis); 27, Lismore (Curtis); 28, Lismore (Curtis); 29, Lismore (Curtis); 30, Lismore (Curtis); 31, Lismore (Curtis); 32, Lismore (Curtis); 33, Lismore (Curtis); 34, Lismore (Curtis); 35, Lismore (Curtis); 36, Lismore (Curtis); 37, Lismore (Curtis); 38, Lismore (Curtis); 39, Lismore (Curtis); 40, Lismore (Curtis); 41, Lismore (Curtis); 42, Lismore (Curtis); 43, Lismore (Curtis); 44, Lismore (Curtis); 45, Lismore (Curtis); 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Saturday portrait: Diego Maradona, by Rob Hughes, football correspondent

# Man-Child returns for last bumpy ride on life's rich roller-coaster

Today is the 33rd birthday of Diego Armando Maradona, football's famed and infamous Man-Child. Tomorrow in Sydney, he attempts another comeback for Argentina in the first leg of a World Cup qualifying play-off against Australia.

Maradona's game, his life, symbolises the Latin style: beauty laced with poison. He is back because his nation is desperate, like England, it teeters on the brink of elimination. Time is Maradona's enemy and time will soon tell whether it is a blessing or a blight to own a television satellite dish. The match is live at 8.15am and if the Great One's performance is good, all will remember what made him the genie of his generation. If he is bad, what will be witnessed is confirmation of the perishable nature of the sporting gift, especially in a body so abused.

Do people watch with their children, trusting Maradona to recreate the joys of the game? Or do they put the match on hold, lest he degrade himself and corrupt his game as he has before? Intriguing. The compulsion to rise and view the contest equates to the lure of heavyweight boxing, where the thrill of expectancy is edged with fear for the welfare of the performer. Yet people will watch, addicted, though not in the way he became an addict to cocaine.

Reality will not stand back and allow him to do his thing. Australia's players are, almost to a man, hardened by European club football. Their approach is brusque, harsh and sometimes borderline. They will hound him, seeking out any weaknesses. He has slimmed down dramatically, shedding over two stone, but that may sap his stamina. In any case, there will not be the acceleration, once clocked at 3.8sec for 30 metres, to take him away from trouble.

Yet he looks fine. He speaks of resurrection, of two years more in the Argentina team. Katherine Hepburn once said the art of performing in declining years was "selling one's deteriorating self". The actress and the footballer are not so far apart.

The rise, fall and return of

Maradona is a soap opera of a street urchin elevated to the tables of kings. He sank into the company of criminals yet, when arrested for cocaine use and "passing on", Argentina's government preferred to rehabilitate rather than jail him. Not since Eva Peron has anyone come closer than Maradona to expressing the Argentinian soul. He is good, he is bad: he sways from innocence to wickedness and everything he does is charged with emotion. He became so much the nation's image abroad that President Carlos Menem, the head of the republic, said: "After raising him to the level of a holy idol, we cannot crucify him."

And so, tomorrow, even though the Argentinian football association once refused to speak his

The rise, fall and return of Maradona is a soap opera of a street urchin elevated to the tables of kings

name, he is back as inspiration for a team that lost its last World Cup qualifying match 5-0 to Colombia. How tempting it is to love Maradona for his artistry and to loathe him for not being man enough to wear fame sportingly. Victor Lupio, the general secretary of Argentina's National Sporting Council, calls Maradona "a victim of modernity".

After primary school, which finished at 13, Maradona did not go on to secondary education. There are few people in the world, even with all the education available, who would be prepared enough to face the pressures that he has been through. Thus, to restore him as a sporting idol and as a man who could be rid of the disease of drugs, was a challenge both the president and the government decided to accept. Lupio's view is interesting in that it reverses the present cry in Eng-

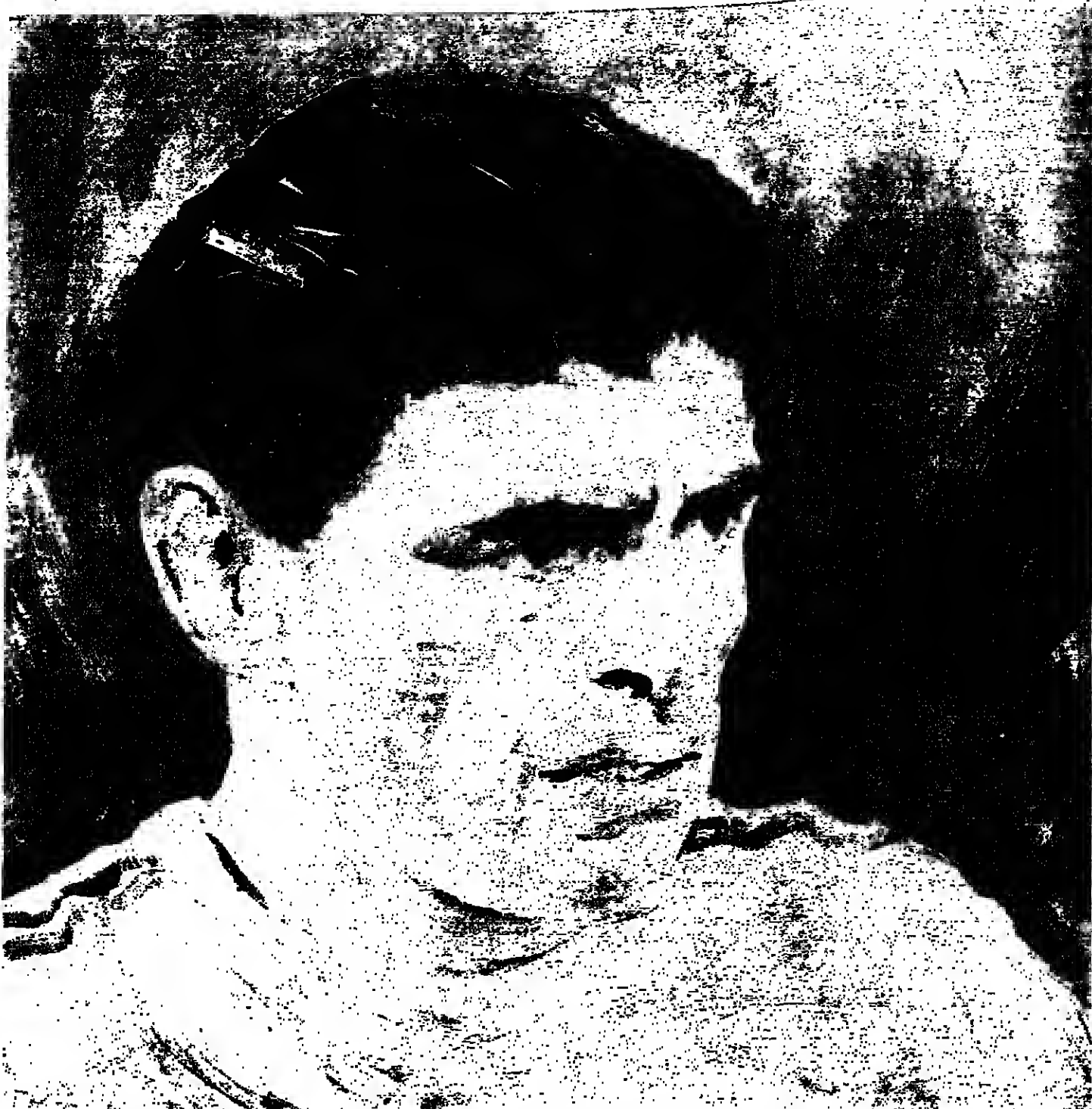
land of football clubs demanding more time out of school influence with gifted children. Where it went right and wrong for Maradona is the conundrum of the player of today, one who learned in boyhood in Buenos Aires how grown men would lie, cheat and pay under the counter for his talent.

At nine, he travelled two hours a day across the city from his shanty town to play for a team known as Los Cebollitas — the Little Onions. He met rich club owners who were something in Argentinian society and, instinctively, he knew that they would offer bribes to his father, Papa Diego, to break contracts already signed. Nothing, except the extent of the finances, changed over a 16-year career in which he was sold five times — from Argentinos Juniors to Boca Juniors, to Barcelona, to Napoli, to Sevilla and, this month, to Newell's Old Boys in Rosario.

The transfer fees have added up to more than \$30 million (about £20.5 million). What Maradona has earned is anyone's speculation, but in the year following 1986, when he captained Argentina to World Cup glory, his salary alone was \$3 million.

When he looks in the mirror, he sees features that are Spanish-Indian, the poorest of the Latin poor, the lowest of his people's social strata. To hide from the excesses of football, he recently returned to the north, to his father's home village, and found fleeing tranquility before yet again attempting to ride football's roller-coaster.

Maradona's imprint is on four World Cups. In 1978, there were the tears of the 17-year-old baby genius, crying in public at being left out of the team. In 1982, kicked as if were the ball, he retaliated and was sent off against Brazil. The 1986 World Cup brought the "Hand of God" goal against England, followed in the same match by an absolute masterpiece. In the final 20 yards, with eight touches of his left foot and countless subtle shifts of balance and direction, he outwitted three English defenders — Stevens, Butcher and Fenwick — before a final



touch guided the ball beyond the sprawling Shilton. By 1990, the flawed genius was an inhabitant of Naples, where his volatility could, like Vesuvius, erupt at any time. He was already called by the doctors, who put painkillers into his back, his knees, his ankle and risked his future. In that 1990 World Cup, with Argentina playing a brutal game, Maradona, the captain, once more personified them, starting the tournament

with an ankle swollen by a blood clot the size of a golf ball.

But the corruptions, the bawry, the sense of values were probably formed in the cradle. Maradona was raised in a two-roomed shanty house in Villa Miseria, Fiorio. When I visited there two years ago, I found the house in a mud street. At the end of it was a wasteland, which mongrels, cockerels, and piglets rummaged through rotting vegetation. Across this swamp was

the bone factory of an old slaughter house where Maradona's father, one of the lucky employed people of Fiorio, worked. Down the road was a mud flat where the Hand of God was as practised an art by the gifted child as any other facet that came instinctively to Maradona.

Maradona, both fated and re-vealed for his origins, skills and behaviour, is a one-off... but perhaps not so. In Naples, an

unmarried mother christened her son Diego Armando and claimed this was his father's name. She won court backing in her pursuit of child support — £2,300 a month from Maradona — but has seen nothing of him or his fortune. However, there may be a dividend, Diego III, now eight, has impressed in a boys' football tournament in Naples. They are saying what she said, that the bloodline will tell all.

## Guernsey power to greater glories

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES IN SUN CITY, FLORIDA

FOR the second day in succession, it was Guernsey and Spain who attracted most attention in the Atlantic Rim outdoor bowls championships at Sun City Center.

Guernsey, with a 29-18 victory over the host country, took over from Wales as the league leaders in the triples table. Jean Simon and Eunice Thompson have never played at international level before, but they have given Sally Paul such sound support that, in their first nine rounds, Guernsey have lost only once.

Given that there are only three clubs on the island, and a mere 120 or so women bowlers to choose from, Guernsey have no right to be so successful. Their 12-12 draw with England, who can choose from over 50,000 players, was followed by victories over such heavyweights as the world champions, Scotland, Ireland and South Africa.

The South Africans fell victim yesterday to the other surprise packet of these championships — Spain. Hester Bekker and Barbara Redshaw, of South Transvaal, were doing very nicely, leading their "Spanish" opponents, Pam Cole and Jean Taylor, 17-1, after eight ends.

Of all the U-turns and topsy-turvy results so far recorded in this strange venue, where the inhabitants are all over 55, the way that Cole and Taylor, originally from the New Forest and Brentwood respectively, came back to win 27-24, was undoubtedly the most spectacular.

Finals: 1st round: Ireland (9 Cameron Jones) 12-10; United States (12-10; Guernsey (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 2nd round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 3rd round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 4th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 5th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 6th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 7th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 8th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 9th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 10th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 11th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 12th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 13th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 14th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 15th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 16th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 17th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 18th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 19th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 20th round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 21st round: Ireland (11) and Spain (11) 12-10; 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## Full-time referees planned by Uefa

FROM DAVID MILLER IN STOCKHOLM

WORRIED by inconsistent refereeing at the highest level, Uefa, European football's governing body, will introduce professional referees next year. It is expected that there will eventually be a full-time pool of 40 to 50 referees to handle the three European club competitions and the quadrennial European championship. The decision will be taken at Uefa's executive committee meeting in December.



This comes as welcome news, particularly in the wake of the lamentable performance by Karl-Josef Assenmacher, the German referee, who was subsequently suspended, in his handling of England's World Cup qualifying tie against Holland in Rotterdam, their 2-0 defeat

ing tie between Belgium and the Representation of Czechs and Slovaks next month.

A directive from Fifa, the sport's world governing body, states that players who commit deliberate fouls on opponents in goalscoring positions should be sent off. The directive is unequivocal but has been inconsistently applied at club and international level.

Johansson said there will be an interim period while professionals are gradually introduced. "Once we establish professional referees, then we can expect the best," he said.

Johansson concedes that referees will be allowed, or even encouraged, to maintain another part-time career so that if they decline in the football arena, say, in their late thirties, they still have an alternative source of employment and income to which they can transfer.

To ensure the highest standards by referees and linesmen, a ranking list will be introduced. It will be monitored and achieved by an equally professional group of observer delegates.

"We have to ensure that the very best of the referees are appointed to the A risk matches," Johansson said. "The number of these is increasing as the number of formerly lesser clubs and nations are able to challenge the traditionally strongest sides."

There is no longer that much difference between the top and the middle of the game. Look at the outcome of recent competitions."

Johansson also hopes that a new and more up-to-date system of ranking clubs and nations will be introduced, being based more on present form than, as at the moment, on an aggregate of form over the past five years.

"We have to study the system," he said, "but when making the draw for competitions, the ranking should accurately reflect the present strengths."

"England have not had success since 1966," Johansson added, "and it is important for European football that they are in business [at the top]. It's a bad blow for European football that they may miss the finals in the United States, though we have to say that Holland played a very intelligent game."

## Keegan and Cole settle argument

KEVIN Keegan, the Newcastle United manager, yesterday resolved his differences with Andy Cole and said the club may have been partly to blame for the much-publicised dispute with the striker.

"He is such a good player and has made such an impact that maybe as a club we have failed to protect him," Keegan said. "This club is going along at such a pace perhaps we have overlooked the small things like players settling in."

Cole has been restored to the Newcastle squad for their FA Cup tie against Wimbledon at St James' Park today. He had been omitted from the Coca-Cola Cup tie between the sides at Selhurst Park on Wednesday.

day, after which Keegan criticised Cole's attitude. It later emerged that Cole, the Nottingham-born striker who joined Newcastle for £1.75 million from Bristol City last season, had walked out of the team hotel after complaining of feeling homesick.

"I've had a good chat with Andy," Keegan said. "I will be here for the next three years and so will he. He's a smashing lad, but we have got to accept that Newcastle geographically is a difficult move if you're not a Geordie."

Lee Clark, who had been disciplined by Keegan for his reaction to being substituted during a league match at Southampton last Sunday, is also recalled.

## Racewalkers see light at end of tunnel



Shoes that are made for walking, with a built-in alarm which could put an end to the scenes of chaos witnessed at the world championships. Photograph: Marc Aspland

NO ATHLETES train harder than international racewalkers, and for what? Every time they go into a big race, they are entering a lottery. The system of judging has been left behind by the march of progress of the sport's competitors.

Yet scenes such as those witnessed at the world championships in Stuttgart, when walking put its head in the stocks and took a pelting, could perhaps be avoided in future. At Wimbledon yesterday, walking was introduced to the "Run-Alarm", a device which, as its inventor, Dennis Furlong, demonstrated, can detect illegal foot movement using technology.

Until now, the naked eye has been the arbiter. "Subjective judging," as Furlong put it, Furlong flew in from his home in Canada to give the world's first demonstration of the battery-operated device. It emits a cautionary signal if a walker is lifting (stepping outside the rules by breaking contact with ground), then lights up when he exceeds his permitted warnings. A judge

can disqualify the competitor by the evidence of the light. "They can look at the walker and be sure whether he is legal or illegal," Furlong, a 48-year-old former competitive racewalker, said.

By the end of the session, Ian McCombie, who holds five British records, was wishing the "Run-Alarm" a speedy entry into competitive walking. "It is exactly the tonic that the sport needs," McCombie said. "My physics O-level tells me that, practically, it has easy application. I am amazed that it can be done so easily."

Ray Hall, Britain's national event coach for men's walking, was also impressed. The judging system was developed at a time when it was possible to monitor walking in compliance with the rules, but its competitors now move up to 20 per cent faster than they did 25 years ago. The naked eye has struggled to cope.

"I do not think the IAAF [International Amateur Athletic Federation] can afford to

### David Powell on how high-tech could steal a march on those stepping outside the rules

ignore any way forward," Hall said.

Peter Marlow, the federation's technical adviser on racewalking, was not able to be present but said last night: "We would look at it most

favourably subject to it being proved under test conditions."

An electronic module is fitted to the top of each shoe, with contacts in the tongue of the right shoe and the sole of the left. Messages are sent

through the athlete's body using electronic impulses. "The shoes talk to each other," Furlong, a doctor of medicine, said.

It adds 180g to the weight of a pair of racing shoes which, without it, usually weigh about 600g. The additional weight would slow walkers down.

"That is absolutely irrelevant compared with the benefit," McCombie said. "If I thought I could have something that was going to monitor walking fairly, I would walk round in Army boots."

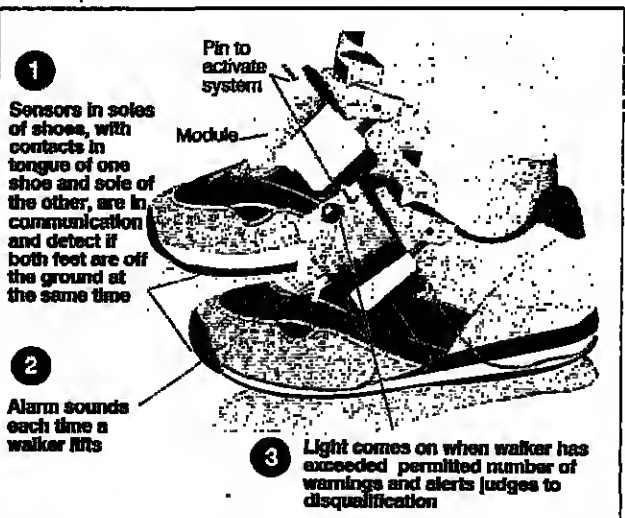
Unfortunately for McCombie, the invention has come too late. He retired last year through injury. In the 1988 Olympic Games he finished thirteenth. "If we had had this at the 1988 Olympics, I would have had a chance of winning," McCombie said. His point being that, with better policing of technique, he would have been up with the leaders.

A walker who gains, say, 2cm per stride through lifting is benefiting by 400 metres in a 20km race: at the 1988

Olympics, McCombie was 400 metres behind the winner. At McCombie's British record pace in 1983, that is two minutes' walking. "The advantage gained in illegal racewalking is more than you gain with performance-enhancing drugs," Furlong said. McCombie is sure he was walking legally and equally certain that he was one of the few. The strict judging system in Britain promotes international walkers less likely to gain from undetected lifting at the championships.

"Most top walkers do work at mobility and technique, but they are going to have to refine that aspect to stay legal," Paul Warburton, walking correspondent at *Athletics Weekly* said. He expressed some reservation at the difficulty a judge may have in spotting a small light bulb either in sunlight or amid a group of walkers but was keen that the federation should see the advantages. Before the public sees another debacle.

China chase record, page 36



## Brabham returns to get new team on track

BY OLIVER HOLT

HIS hair is a little grey at the sides and his bearing is not what it used to be, but Sir Jack Brabham, the three-times world champion and one of the most famous names in motor racing, returned to the sport with his enthusiasm undimmed yesterday as one of the leading figures in an attempt to launch a new team into Formula One next season.

More than 30 years ago, Sir Jack left the Cooper team with which he had won the first two of his world titles, in 1959 and 1960, to give his own technical ideas free rein and start up the now defunct Brabham team. In 1966, when many observers thought he was past his best, he became the first man to win a race and the championship in a car bearing his own name.

Yesterday, in an almost sepulchral

setting in a small factory in Banbury, he confirmed his involvement in a similarly daring project and, in the process, swept away much of the cynicism that has surrounded the efforts of Sinterk Research to break into Formula One next season, despite an absence of racing experience and the untried talents of the nascent team's precocious designer, Nick Wirth.

Wirth, 27, exudes practical optimism and said he estimated the team had "an 80 to 90 per cent chance" of appearing in Formula One next season. "We have been dribbling the ball around the goalposts and now we just need to knock it into the net," he said, "but part of the reason we have got so far is because of the bravery and commitment of Sir Jack."

"Sinterk's challenge is like the one I faced in 1962," Sir Jack, 67, said at

the unveiling ceremony of the first of the company's sleek, high-nosed S941 cars, resplendent in purple and black and designed to comply with new refuelling regulations. "This is a new team setting off and it has got to prove itself. Nick is going to have the same sort of satisfaction I had in getting my team into Formula One and winning races."

"I have been firing along on this for quite a while. I am very enthusiastic about it all and I think the team will do very well very quickly. I like the technical concept and I think Nick is one of the most promising designers in the industry at the moment. I am very confident that he has built a car that will be right up there. Now that I can actually show people pictures of the car, it should be a lot easier to sell."

Sir Jack's role has not been confined to trying to recruit the

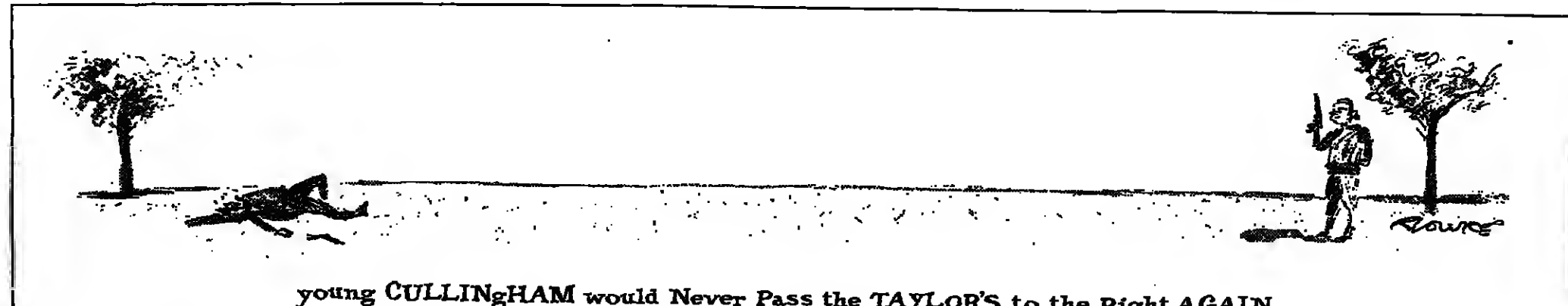
sponsors the team needs if its cars are to take their place on the grid at the first race of the 1994 season, in Buenos Aires on March 20. Sir Jack's son, David, who has been confirmed as one of the team's two drivers, said: "Dad is not beyond picking out problems in the design of a modern Formula One car. He will point something out to Nick and Nick will go away and have a look at it. It would be stupid not to use all the experience and all the knowledge he has."

Sir Jack concluded his appearance in Banbury by expressing mild dismay at the antics of his fellow three-times world champion, Ayrton Senna, who punched Jordan's debutant Irish driver, Eddie Irvine, in the aftermath of a keenly-contested Japanese grand prix. Senna learnt yesterday that both he and his sparring partner must appear before

a meeting of the International Automobile Federation world council in Paris on December 10, where they will face fines or possible suspension at the beginning of next season if they are found guilty of bringing the sport into disrepute.

Nigel Mansell, Senna's one-time nemesis, returned to the track to make his first competitive appearance in Britain since winning the Formula One world title in 1992 and the IndyCar series this season.

True to form, Mansell was involved in a spectacular crash during practice for the touring car race tomorrow at Donington, Leicestershire, in which he will compete in a Ford Mondeo, and finished more than a second slower than the pace-setter, Paul Radisich. "I need to learn this car and how to get the most from it," he said. "I am still getting up to speed."



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# AFTER THE BOOKER

Today's novel under tomorrow's gavel

Joseph Connolly, page 7



# PAUL HEINEY

Small-talk with a crashing boar

Murphy's law, page 18



# SITTING PRETTY

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Andrew Varah, page 9

GETTY  
TICKETS  
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Page 15

# WEEKEND

3

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 30 1993



The spirit of Sir Christopher Wren raising a ghost of a smile at Sway Tower in Hampshire. Wren was commissioned to design the tower at the ripe old age of 247, which may explain why he appears to have lost his touch a little

# A few of my favourite haunts

Alan Coren will be out and about tomorrow looking for Halloween things to go bump in the night with — so long as they're not his relatives

Tomorrow could be a pretty busy night for Sway Tower in Hampshire. This was designed in 1879 by Sir Christopher Wren, but unless I had told you that, you probably would not have guessed because (a) it is a concrete column 218ft high, and thus somewhat different from the premises Wren normally cobbled, and (b) he had been dead for a century and a half.

Indeed, it is possible that (a) is explained by (b), since a man of 247 may well have either changed the ideas of his youth or lost his touch altogether, and Sway Tower offers clear evidence of both possibilities: even though Judge Thomas Turton Peterson, who commissioned Wren, was very happy with the way it turned out. We know this because despite the fact that he is as dead as Wren, now, he still hangs around the place.

Halloween might thus be a good time to visit Sway, when it is on the cards that Peterson will invite a few friends in, many of whom will come up through the basement, since the tower stands on an Iron Age burial mound. That is why tomorrow night could be pretty busy.

If, by the way, you are wondering how Peterson got

Wren to design the tower for him, the answer is that Peterson went to a local medium with his problem, and the medium put him in touch with Wren, and Wren took the job. He not only, through the medium, drew up the plans, he also supervised the construction. Whether, mind, I cannot with confidence say, since St Paul's is also rumoured to be a favourite haunt of his; so si monumentum requirit, circumspecte, and, who knows, you may catch sight of the old boy too, ambling about and wondering now whether it would not have looked better in concrete.

But if Wren does not show up at Sway, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle very well might, given that he was not only a friend of Peterson, but is also buried just a mile or two away, on the furthest edge of Minstead churchyard. He was dumped on the furthest edge because the congregation hated the idea of a believer in spiritualism being interred near the church: which, since that church was sanctified in the name of history's most famous revenant, may strike you as somewhat inconsistent.

I have to say that, for me, a ghost does not have to be holy before I am prepared to believe in it. You should not,

however, jump to any conclusions about what it is that I believe it to be: I have experienced ghosts in one way and another for most of my life, but I have never taken these assorted manifestations as proof of the soul's immortality. Quite why those who have long since turned to dust should continue to pop up now and then, and here and there, I do not know, and under no circumstances would I permit the huge body of tiffy quasi-scientific spiritualist scholarship to attempt to explain it to me: I am quite content to live with present inexplicability, and should some future boffin come up with watertight proof that ghosts are simply a hitherto unidentified physical phenomenon, I shall be quite content to take that on board, too.

What I am not content with is the quality of the ghosts I have met. I kicked off with Sway Tower just now only because it is the place I most recently visited, rather than sensibly waiting for Halloween, in the hope of making contact with Peterson, Wren, or Conan Doyle. I would even have settled for Dame Alicia Lisle, who can often be seen

not far from Sway, in a coach pulled by four headless horses which takes her on nocturnal excursions from Ellingham churchyard, where she was buried in 1685, having herself been beheaded at the Bloody Assizes for sheltering a brace of Monmouth rebels. I should not have minded meeting her at all; there would have been much to chat of, especially if Judge Jeffreys, as he often does, had come out from behind a tree. But nobody showed.

The New Forest, mind, is only one of a number of haunts I have haunted in the hope of making that metaphor flesh, or at least ectoplasm. I have done St John's College, Oxford, with every intention of waiting until Archbishop Laud had finished rolling his head across the library floor (his regular jape

so that I could have a word, once it was back on, in his ear, and it goes without saying that I have done my own college, Wadham, where Wren was an undergraduate, and where — when he is not in Sway, St Paul's, or Hampton Court Palace (in which he often turns up on his deathday, February 26, and where I have also attempted to bump into him) — he has been seen mus-ing in the Chapel Quad, but he did not materialise at any time during my four years. Clearly, Wren is avoiding me, but why? Is it because I have never offered him a commission? Should I invite him to tender for a concrete outhouse?

I am not being half as frivolous as might appear. For 40 years, I have engaged in spiritualism (with results

which are simultaneously interesting and dull), ever since my parents, who were not mad either, introduced me to it. Not only were we none of us corrupt, as countless mediums have of course been, although God knows why, as most of them only charged five bob a seance, and some of the antics they got up to with pulleys and lights and drapes must have cost a packet, never mind manifestations in Tudor dress in the days when you could not get a handkerchief without clothing coupons.

My family, however, was straight: uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws would turn up for meetings with no axes to grind, no profits to turn, no boxes to practise; with no ambitions, in short, for any gain beyond making contact with the dear departed. And make contact we did, by the drove, and by Outfit, trumpet, planchette, table, Morse key, and anything else which the ghosts could manage articulately to deploy.

There were but two soaps to these otherwise successful encounters: (1) the ghosts were invariably those of friends and relatives (including, and im-

pressively for those wishing to put it all down to telepathy or some such, a few none of us had ever heard of, which usually sorted itself out after a bit of "Binnie? Who the hell's Binnie?" "Hang on, wasn't your Uncle Dick's second wife called Binnie?" "No, you're thinking of his dog, Minnie. I've got an idea Binnie was your cousin Gus's mother") and (2) the friends and relatives were even more boring than they had been when they were alive.

This was a great disappointment: I would often attempt to find out what conditions were like where they were, did they smoke, were there dogs, did everyone speak English, and so on, but all any ghost would ever reply was that it was happy. It would then clear off to make way for another one, who would identify itself and tell us it was happy, too.

While this always seemed to satisfy the rest of the family, I have to say I never gave a damn whether they were happy or not. I wanted to know if they had met Genghis Khan or Wally Hammond, and could they bring them next time, but as soon as you put that to them, they clammed up and another happy old bore came through. My mother's explanation for this was quite simple: why on earth would a big cheese like Genghis Khan want to talk to the likes of us?

Which was why, when I grew older, I took up ghost-hunting. Since they seemed to exist, and since there was a vast tally of sightings of the major dead by sane and even scientifically distinguished people, it struck me that there should be an outside chance of matching my psychic nous with my social aspirations. It has not worked out. I have taken my techniques and my goodwill (leave us not call it faith) to unpeeped, well-documented, supernatural sites. I have set up seances there with other honest practitioners, and all we have ever got is more happy bloody relatives.

Nevertheless, I shall not give up. Afterlife goes on, and tomorrow night, since it is the most propitious one of the year, I shall be at the Thames-side site to which Charles I has been returning, on and off, for three centuries. Whatever happens or does not, it makes a lot more sense than sitting at home waiting for a nudge in a Woolworth's mask to bang on the door and offer me the choice of either coughing up a quid or having the car resprayed.



Popping back Judge Thomas Turton Peterson

on track

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# Pampered back to life

**Elizabeth Dashwood** escapes the office for a de-stressing as opposed to distressing family weekend in Wiltshire

The next time I want my car washed I shall drive to Lucknam Park country house hotel, near Bath, at which cars can be valeted. Among other activities. The staff feed guests one-star Michelin food, beauty and massage them, encourage them to swim in a large, indoor, heated pool or float in a hot tub, and make them feel completely at home.

Not that my home includes a wine waiter tripping across the lawn to stand at the edge of the croquet lawn, offering a drink and suggesting a nice Pomerol for supper. Nor that my home includes a croquet lawn. Or a magnificent walled garden. Or a nearby stables. Or a "ghost" to turn down beds and clear up after us.

The best trained staff do have a curious, other-worldly quality: they run, Jeeves-like, seemingly on castors, untroubled by tumbling forks, tipsy guests and turbulent children. They notice before you do that a splash more gravy might be in order, or a bathing towel is not near enough to hand when you climb out of the pool. They notice before you do that you are about to lose your way from the dining-room to the drawing-room. They allow the over-taxed over-achiever to drift effortlessly, bereft of deci-



Inspiration for childish mischief, an illustration from Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Tom Kitten*

sion-making, towards a loosening of tired shoulder muscles and fixed smiles.

Relaxation is an aim at Lucknam Park and so a chummy atmosphere is encouraged,

although never forced. In the swimming pool a little boy, whose extended family had gathered at Lucknam to celebrate his second birthday (I rudely kept trying to work out how much this celebration was costing), was introduced to my two-year-old daughter, Miranda, and marriage was discussed. In the walled garden guests compared early autumn flower scents, and in the sunny drawing-room before dinner, lazily challenged each other to games of tennis without leaving their large, comfy chairs.

The surrounding Wiltshire countryside helps, as do the peaceful grounds. The mellow stone house comes into view at the end of a mile-long drive, lined with two ranks of beech trees. Thus there is time to dwell on the prettiness of the building, time to feel that a horse and six would be more appropriate than a raty Citroën.

It was late when I arrived with spouse and two children three-year-old Rose and Miranda. The sleeping infants were whisked silently through the entrance hall into a suite with a vast four-poster and their beds. The four-poster



Lucknam Park in festive array

had an uncanny resemblance to the one pictured in Beatrix Potter's *Tom Kitten*, on the top canopy of which Tom, already in disgrace, is frolicking. Inspired, my (now wakeful) daughters tried something similar and managed to catapult themselves on to a radiator. Luckily, they have tough skulls.

The restaurant had been making a siren call to my stomach since setting off from London, but I reckoned we were too late even for sandwiches. "No, no; no bother at all. Choose from the menu and it will be brought to your

room," we were told. And so the feast began: melt-in-the-mouth, politically incorrect foie gras, followed by partridge, and a treasure chest made of chocolate and hazelnuts — all disgracefully rich and quite delicious.

At about 7.30 on Saturday morning we were woken by scurrying noises around the base of the four-poster, followed by squeaky demands for breakfast. One telephone call later the exquisitely mannered ghosts arrived, manoeuvring tray after tray on to the freshly laid dining-table.

Weighed down with the sin of greed, and two huge meals, I made my way to the beauty parlour. There is nothing like a hairdresser or beauty therapist for massaging away guilt and problems. This is clearly what the bride-to-be and her friend in the next cubicle felt, and for the next hour and a half while I was pummeled, I had a running commentary on the groom, the best man, the bride's *risqué* past, the groom's family's peccadilloes.

I regret to say that a more formal arrangement has now been made whereby such ill-mannered eavesdropping is no longer possible: the beauty area has been given a whole house to itself. Guests can give the de-stressing, as opposed to distressing, programme a whirl for £250, which includes two nights' accommodation, breakfast, dinner, and a Paris Method full body massage and mini facial.

Elizabeth Dashwood was a guest of Lucknam Park, Coleme, Wiltshire SN14 8AZ (0225 743777).

# Princely welcome in a snowstorm

Klostern is one of the oldest, most elegant European ski resorts and one of the least spoilt

THE huge, open, sunny snowfields of the Parsenn region of Switzerland were the earliest haunts of Europe's Alpine skiers. Here the first funicular dedicated to skiing was built, and the first ever drag lift installed.

Klostern is for intermediate skiers looking for long empty runs over the fields and into the woods, and for beginners for whom elegant accommodation is paramount. It was Prince Charles who alerted expert skiers to the deep-snow, off-piste potential of Klostern, when he took official responsibility for a fatal avalanche on the notorious "Wang" off-piste itinerary in 1983.

The prince remains a popular favourite with longtime residents in the resort, who appreciate his continued custom after the accident. Klostern is that rarity among today's aggressively marketed ski circuits. The resort is small enough, the clientele loyal enough, for every new customer to be welcomed like the lifelong guest he is expected to become.

I arrived in Klostern on the cog railway of the Rhätische Bahn, a private line with the endearingly un-Swiss trait of never once being on time. Fat, heavy flakes were descending like manna from heaven. Nothing beats arriving in a ski resort during a snowstorm.

However, the local tourist authorities could do something to warn hapless travellers such as myself that Klostern is really two separate train stops. I got off at the first sign of Klostern, "Klostern Dorf", "Klostern Platz", which is the resort, is another 1,000 metres up the hill.

If you hate the soulless concrete bunker resorts of France, you will love Klostern. It is old world, quiet and quaint without being twee. Despite its reputation for catering to an élite, Klostern exhibits no sign of chic, no hint of glamour. "I guess we're about 20 years behind the times," says Martin Accola, the tourist director, as if it were something to be ashamed of.

WITH fewer than 10,000 beds, Klostern retains a village atmosphere. Traditionally, clients stay in hotels, most of which rate four or five stars. When asked why Klostern does not have the kind of chalet parties so typical of Verbier and Val d'Isère, Herr Accola says: "We were really lucky the package companies never came here."

I stayed in the first hotel built in Klostern, the Vereina. Since 1879 there have been a few revisions, but the standard of service and the wide hallways date back to an earlier age.

In the hushed ambience of the dining-room, I was slightly unnerved to see that boys of six and seven were dressed in jackets and ties. After dinner, however, even the grandfathers in their dinner jackets retired to the Vereina's *pièce de résistance*, a room full of vintage pinball machines. The next morning after



Klostern exhibits no obvious chic, no hint of glamour

breakfast, I left the hotel and walked into a blizzard. Snow was falling so heavily that visibility was nil. I was surprised to find the Gotschnagrat cable car running. It is a virtue of the open snowfields shared by Klostern and Davos that skiing is still possible in heavy snow conditions.

In resorts characterised by steep rock faces and *coulouirs* susceptible to avalanche, cable cars to the upper slopes are routinely closed when visibility is poor. Up on the Parsenn, few skiers were out. The snow was deep, but heavy and wet. It was one of those days where the best technique is "point 'em and pray".

I ran into a group of English skiers, accompanied by their mountain guide. They graciously steered me down on an incredible itinerary through the woods, which ended hours later in a tiny hamlet right on the Rhätische Bahn tracks. This is the kind of get-away-from-the-pack skiing almost impossible to find on the "hidden highway" off-piste itineraries of Verbier, St Anton and Val d'Isère.

Klostern is not immune to lift queues, although the Gotschnagrat cable car has ample capacity on most weekdays. On Sundays, the best bet is to hop on the train and run down to Davos to ski the outlying Jakobshorn or Rinerhorn sectors, each self-contained family ski areas in their own right. From Klostern Dorf, down the line from

Klostern in the opposite direction from Davos, weekend skiers will find the Madrisa sector worth exploring too.

Davos has none of the charm of Klostern. But together on the same "Rega" lift pass, the two resorts offer awesome skiing terrain. The Parsenn, Strela and Weissfluhjoch snowfields present together as much opportunity for off-piste foraging as anywhere in the Trois Vallées or the Espace Killy in France.

Long itineraries down to valley hamlets, such as the 12km run from the Weissfluhgipfel to Küblis, are typical of the Klostern-Davos region. Experts will have to judge

for themselves whether the infamous "Wang" run is really as difficult as it is made out.

I was left pondering the Swiss sense of irony after my final conversation with Herr Accola. I was congratulating him on avoiding the twin plagues of low-budget package tourism and locust-like ski bums when he inquired: "What's a ski bum?"

When I described the hordes who "graze" off leavings on the restaurant terraces of Verbier and St Anton, and who trash every inch of fresh white powder snow the instant it hits the ground in Val d'Isère and Chamonix, Herr Accola obviously still did not understand. "Well," he offered tentatively, "we do get the Swedish royal family."

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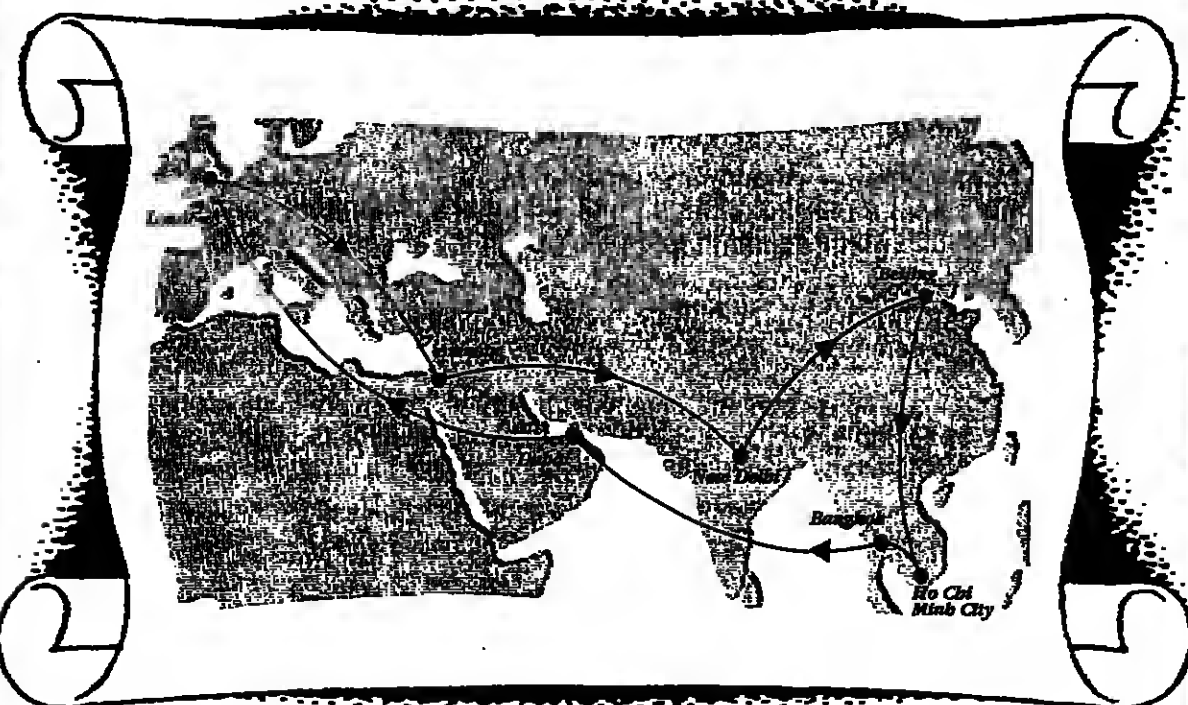
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Louisa Young follows an extraordinary countryman who has turned his passion for local wildlife into a thriving business

## One man and his video camera

Johnny Kingdom knows the names of the birds, and their songs, and their habits. He knows where the badgers' sets are, how to tickle a trout and how to make the little kissing noise that makes a fox cub think you're a rabbit. And he knows how to sneak up on a deer.

None of this is particularly unusual in a North Devon countryman, but Mr Kingdom has taken his knowledge a step further. He's like a big child — "Look at this! Look what I found!" He wants people to see and join in, but stalking beasts is not really a social activity. So he's found a way to make it one.

"My day job is, I dig the graves. So did my father, and my grandfather, and my boy's learning it now because I'm 54. I was a lumberjack but I had an accident and I couldn't do it any more. I spent a lot of time up on the moor, walking, and then one of my mates lent me his video camera and I took it up there and just started to film what I saw." He filmed first for his own pleasure, then for showings in the village hall, and now for the thousands of people who send for his North Devon wildlife videos.

"I always liked the animals and the countryside," he says, "and it shows. His films are a little wobbly, but all the more appealing and immediate for that. Sorry about the dirty spots on the screen, it's raining," he murmurs on the soundtrack. Hearing the whirr of the camera, the songs of the birds, the creek of Mr Kingdom's boots, you can feel that you are there. And after all this is England, not the Serengeti.

Over a shot of some foliage, Mr Kingdom's hushed voice explains what most of us would have missed if we'd walked past it: the little wobbly things in the shadow of the leaves are young blackcaps in their nest, gaping for food. And here comes the father bird to feed them, poking a dragonfly down a throat. And the mother. "You mustn't go too close to the nest," he says. "If you go too close she'll forsake them." The camera closes in: the chicks look like tiny dinosaurs, bald and pinky green.

He films badgers scuttling around after the cake that he has left for them — his wife, Julie, makes it from peanuts, honey and Sugar Puffs. And stoats carrying their young in their mouths. Herons mating, a barn owl, a furious buzzard, a fox cub trotting through the stubble, seven stags, their antlers gleaming in the dawn. Neighbours ring to report



sightings, and Mr Kingdom never goes anywhere without his camera.

The key is patience. "You have to get out of your car," he says with gentle irony. He knows where the animals will be, sets up the camera, and waits. Some shots take him four days. Or he goes out at dawn and in the evening with the camera on his shoulder. He crawls on his belly and lurks behind bushes. He wades through bogs. He climbs trees. He stays downwind. Taking a tip, perhaps, from the greenfinches he found nesting in an old



Johnny Kingdom gets his beloved North Devon woodland in focus, looking for barn owl, red deer and badger among others; some shots take him four days

Rayburn, he has built himself a hide in a disused electricity pylon. Murmuring into his camera's microphone as the animals emerge he says: "I'm having a terrible job keeping the camera steady here... ah, but now what do you want prettier than that?"

At this time of the year the best show is the red deer. Among the bracken and damp and fantastic yellow fungus of the autumn forest Mr Kingdom points out their slow (footprints); the difference between the hind's (pointy) and the stag's

(splayed). He estimates the size of the animal and how long since it was there. He shows their racks (paths) up banks and through hedges — and the damaged bark on a big gorse bush that a stag has attacked. He shows their wallows — wide pools where they lay their scent during the rutting season. The water is cloudy: they've been here this morning, bathing and stroking the water with their antlers. Mr Kingdom has it on film:

the deer looking mythical in the mist. We run into a gamekeeper, and they gossip about the whereabouts of a particular big stag. "All his rights, six and eight atop? That's the one," they say. They recognise stags by their antlers: "all his rights" means the three lower points on each antler, called the brow, by and tray. Six and eight atop refers to the number of points above the rights: six on one side, eight on the other. The gamekeeper is afraid it might have been

bad by poachers — even a farmed stag's head can make £1,000 — but Mr Kingdom saw it again the next day.

They can tell an Exmoor stag from a lowland stag by the breadth and strength of its antlers: a stag from down near Tiverton will have broader, bigger antlers because the feeding is better down there. Each spring a stag loses his antlers, and during the summer grows bigger ones, green and velvety and rubbery to start with, hardening up as the year draws on.

The stags can be dangerous during the rutting season, and Mr Kingdom had to grab his camera and shin up a tree a couple of times. Cities, though, are another thing. "We went to London once. We were in what they call the rush hour, we didn't know what it was. Flipping frightened us half to death."

● *JFK Videos, Moorlands, 3 Gletland Villas, Bishop's Nympton, North Devon EX36 4PT (0769 550367). A First Tuesday documentary, Johnny Kingdom and the Secret of Happiness, goes out on November 2 at 10.30pm (TV all areas).*

Paul Heiney's column now appears on the back page of Weekend

## On the trail of the Lizard

OUR second extract from the *Countryside Commission's* series of guides for walkers takes us on an 11-mile walk through Cornish coastal scenery from the Lizard to Coverack. Even in the height of summer you will see remarkably few signs of tourism as you walk the coast path. Away from the popular places you will meet few of the millions of visitors that Cornwall absorbs each season — simply the best of the landscapes and seascapes, and a proud and fascinating history written into the countryside.

The days when intrepid walkers of the coast path carried sharp implements to cut a way through gorse, bracken, blackthorn and brambles have gone. The *Countryside Commission* awards grants to the county council and the *National Trust* to maintain the path.

The route on this walk is easy as far as Cadgwith, but from there to Coverack there are a few tiring climbs and steep, slippery slabs of rock to cross. This really is the geological walk par excellence.

The route starts above the old lifeboat station in Polpoor Cove. From the car-park, which contains cafes and shops selling the greyish-green serpentine mineral, though the serious geologist

**John Macadam takes a walk in Cornwall, where the coast path and the rock are serpentine**



will want to see the variegated *in situ* and will need a geological guide.

On the coast path you pass south of the most southerly house to Bass Point (1). The slopes here have a mass of Honiton flint, which is regarded as an unwelcome alien because the mass of stems chokes the native flora.

On top of Bass Point stands not only a coastguard lookout but also the now disused Lloyd's signal station, from where incoming ships were given visual orders. In 1961, the lifeboat was moved from Polpoor Cove to the more sheltered Kilobben Cove.

Church Cove (2) not only has an old capstan house but also a fish palace converted into a house.

The serpentine quarries to the north of Church Cove provided stone for the runways of Culdrose airfield, and crushed serpentine has also been used for firebricks.

Farther on, the rock underfoot is schist, a black sparkling material with fine white lay-

ers, which has been quarried above Chough's Ogo (3), leaving a very comfortable resting place. But sadly there have been no choughs (a local type of crow) to watch here for the past 150 years.

A little farther on, a wooden seat has been provided so that you can sit and look down into Hugga Driggee, more commonly known as the Devil's Frying Pan, a funnel-shaped depression with a narrow arch at the bottom.

The route winds through a private garden, then passes on the seaward side of the cottages. Cadgwith is many people's idea of a proper Cornish fishing village. It lost its lifeboat when the new lifeboat station was built at Kilobben. On the north side of Cadgwith Cove the small hut with a chimney was a coastguard lookout.

The slopes above Kildown Cove are the site of an experiment by the *National Trust* and a local farmer to stop the normal reversion of fenced-off coastal land to scrub. A strip of

coast has been boxed off by fences, gates built for walkers to open and close, the scrub cleared and stock allowed to graze. It is hoped that grassland rich in wildflowers will regenerate.

Poltesco is the site of an old serpentine works, from where the pulp in Landewednack Church came. The serpentine factory took over the site from a pilchard seine — a style of fishing where a net is held vertically in the water and the ends then drawn together. The rounded building was a capstan house for hauling in boats and nets.

Kennack Sands (4) is a popular beach with caravan sites near by as well as beach cafes, a car-park and public conveniences.

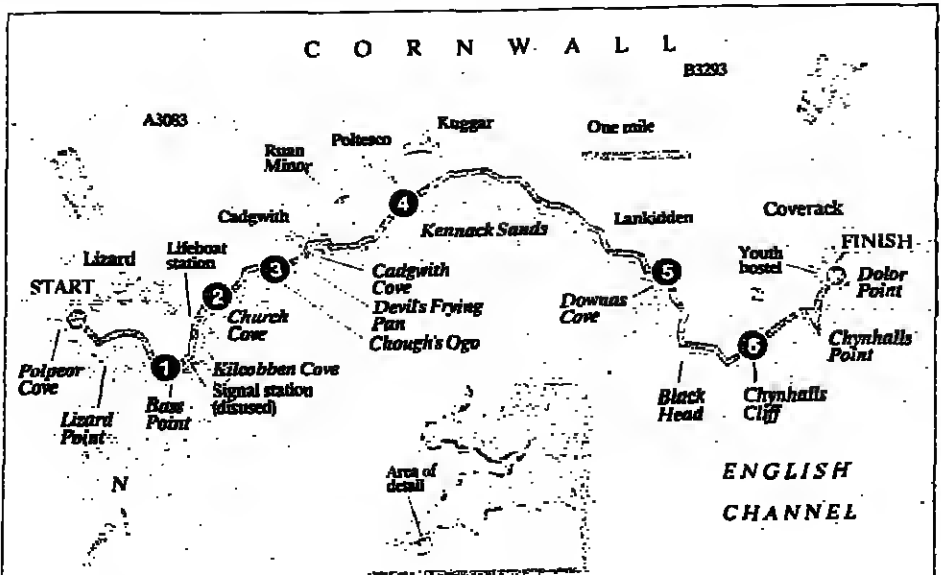
On the east side of the sands the path, after the concrete bridge, follows a lane seaward of the trees. It goes through an area of butcher's broom growing on the alkaline soil and goes on to Lankidden, with its tiny sandy beach and a track to the road, which could be useful to anyone who wished to miss the steep climb and descent at Downas Cove (5).

On a clear day it is obvious why a coastguard lookout was placed at Black Head, as walkers from the Lizard can see Falmouth, the Dodman and more headlands beyond.

Above Chynhalls Cliff (6) there is a pig yard, which drains across the path. The path then turns inland and returns towards the coast at the Chynhalls Hotel, with a spur running out to the "fort" at Chynhalls Point.

The main coast path goes down seaward of the Wesleyan chapel and then hugs the coast round Dolor Point and the Paris Hotel (named after a local wreck, not the capital of France). It goes past the old lifeboat station of the small harbour at Coverack. The youth hostel here runs a sailing school and there are shops, a sandy beach at low water and a bus service.

● Edited extract by Frank Jeffery from *South West Coast Path* by John Macadam, published by Aurum Press in association with the *Countryside Commission/Ordnance Survey*, price £3.99. It is one of the *National Trail* Guide series, which includes *Ordnance Survey* maps.



## THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

A VOYAGE TO THE LANDS OF ICE AND FIRE ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN STAR  
14 July-2 August 1994

Opportunities for the genuine traveller have widened dramatically in the last couple of years. Nowhere is this more true than in the remote and previously 'closed' areas of the Russian Far East.

The Kamchatka Peninsula and the stepping stone islands of the Kurils which form a chain from Kamchatka to Japan have been off-limits to westerners for decades. Our appetites were whetted by the recent showing of the excellent BBC wildlife series, 'Realms of the Russian Bear' which visited Kamchatka, so aptly described as a land of ice and fire.

The whole area is of great interest to birdwatchers, naturalists and travellers who like to experience new areas which are unaccustomed to tourists. The Kuril Islanders are particularly noted for their warm hospitality and there will be opportunities to meet the locals and learn about their demanding lifestyles.



### THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London-Moscow. Fly London to Moscow and stay overnight.

DAY 2 Moscow. Morning city tour including a visit to the Kremlin. Afternoon at leisure. Evening special charter flight to Vladivostok.

DAY 3 Vladivostok. Prior to joining the MS Caledonian Star there will be a tour of the city. Sail in the evening.

DAY 4 At sea. Talks by our guest speakers.

DAY 5 Kamchatka. Afternoon visit to Kholmsk, our first call to Sakhalin Island. Situated on the West Coast this booming city owes its growth to the links with the Great Siberian Railway and its enthusiastic adoption of Perestroika. See Tushino-Sakhalinsk and the regional ethnographic Museum.

DAY 6 At sea.

DAY 7 Iturup. Go ashore by Zodiac to a grove from the Mayor and a symphony concert. Explore the small town of Kurilsk including the salmon hatchery and surprisingly enough an art school. Island drive across the dramatic scenery to the White Cliffs.

DAYS 8 & 9 At sea. Cruising in the Kurils.

DAY 10 Petropavlovsk. Arrive at the capital of the Kamchatka Peninsula in the morning. Our entry into Avachinsky will be unforgettable. This is the world's largest deep sea harbour, curving some 15 miles across with a dramatic mountain backdrop. Visit the Volcanology Institute and the local museum.

DAY 11 Petropavlovsk. A visit will be arranged into the interior today to see the hot springs of Paratunka and also a small settlement at Mafki. Those with a head for heights might like to take an optional excursion by helicopter to the Valley of the Geysers. This is a unique area of fumes, lava and geology. Only a few visitors are allowed to see this extraordinary phenomenon consisting of multiple tiers of geysers along the slopes of a valley.

DAY 12 Paramushir (Kuril Islands). Calling at Severo Kurilsk we will explore this rugged volcanic island which is just off the Kamchatka Peninsula. The area will be teeming with seabirds and we hope to spot some rarely seen species.

DAY 13 At sea. Cruising in the Kurils. Calling at Severo Kurilsk we will explore this rugged volcanic island which is just off the Kamchatka Peninsula. The area will be teeming with seabirds and we hope to spot some rarely seen species.

Japanese in feel and scenery. Stopping at Kitoyomy on Shumshir which is the middle of the group we shall explore the area by Zodiac, seeing something of the important fishing industry, enjoying nature walks in the unique countryside and setting foot where only a handful of westerners have landed before.

DAY 15 At sea.

DAY 16 Koshur (Sakhalin Island). Returning to Sakhalin, an island first discovered by the Dutch in 1643 and administered by successive Russian, Japanese and now again Russian governments, we shall call at Korsakov in the south eastern corner. After a visit to this enterprising town we shall drive into the countryside and see some of the 16,000 lakes, 60,000 rivers brimming with salmon and the interesting flora which includes such rarities as hardwoods which grow to 10 feet.

DAYS 17 & 18 At sea.

DAY 19 Vladivostok-Moscow. Disembark in the morning for charter flight to Moscow. Arrive Moscow in the evening and stay overnight.

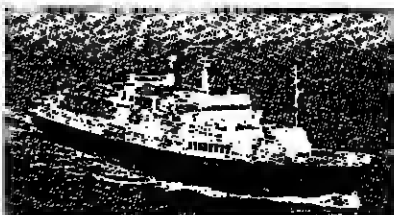
DAY 20 Moscow-London. Late afternoon flight from Moscow to London (Heathrow).

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## RESTAURANT WATCH

### LANCS HOTSPOT

French Connection  
Edenfield Road, Cheesden,  
Norden, Rochdale  
(0706 50167)

Savvy-trained Andrew Nutter, previously at the Château de Montreuil in France, does bistro lunches and gastro-nomic dinners on the moors outside Rochdale. Dishes include wild mushroom soup with chanterelle ravioli (£2.95), sea bass stuffed with lobster and scampi mousse (£14.95), and herb-crusted monkfish with tomato and basil (£12.95). Reckon £12 to £15 lunch, £30 dinner. All day opening on Sundays (noon to 9pm) has proved very popular. Otherwise open noon-2.30pm and 7-9.30pm (10.30pm Sat), except Monday (closed).

### RUSTICITY

The Peasant  
240 St John Street, London  
EC1 (071-336 7726)

Poised between Angel and the City, The Peasant opens tomorrow: a converted Victorian gin palace where Michael Kitos and Craig Schorn (ex-Frith's and Joe Allen's), guided by consultant chef Carla Tomasi, promise rustic food such as cassoulets, risottos and stews "with a cosmopolitan twist". Real ales as well as wines, and £15 to £18 a head should cover full meals. Open Monday to Friday, noon-11pm.

### BOHEMIAN BRUM

Café des Artistes  
Lakeside, The Custard  
Factory, Digbeth,  
Birmingham (021-608 7878)

Anne Galloway, designer-turned-arts administrator-turned-cook, reckons she has to be "ridiculously cheap" catering to artists and media folk in Birmingham's new Arts and Media Centre, the former Birds Custard Factory. The still-evolving menu includes soups, pasta dishes and pastisseries, and £10 should cover it. Open 9am-10pm (11pm Saturday), but not yet on Sundays.

### SOUTHERN BALTI

Haweli  
7 White Hart Lane, Bormes,  
London SW13 (081-876 4441)

The group of ten Haweli restaurants (other branches are in Sutton, New Malden, West Byfleet, Belmont, Welington, Epsom, Surbiton and Twickenham) has commissioned Pat Chapman of the Curry Club and Balti Curry Cook Book to introduce a balti (Himalayan bucket stir-fry) range to new menus being launched this week. "We aim to de-Brummify the balti" declares owner Manju Zaman. £20 a head or so. Open noon-2.30pm and 6pm-midnight, seven days a week.

ROBIN YOUNG

# Best of British produce

Henrietta Green travelled 15,000 miles around Britain to find the best food the country can offer. Jo Fairley gets a taste

For five months last year, food writer, author and broadcaster Henrietta Green forsook square meals in favour of a diet of fudge, Cornish pasties, black pudding, ice-cream and butter — eaten straight from the packet.

Ms Green has long crusaded to improve awareness of British regional foods through her broadcasts for *Farming Week* and *The Food Programme*, and via cookery books — including *New Country Kitchen*, which this year scooped America's top cookbook prize, the Julia Child Award. So last year she embarked on an epic, 15,000-mile quest to uncover Britain's gourmet secrets. Now the fruits of her labours have been published as *Henrietta Green's Food Lover's Guide to Britain*, saving the rest of us from having to notch up thousands of high-cholesterol miles to locate the best farm shops, the finest fishmongeries and delicatessens in these islands.

She insists that she is not so much a good cook as "a good shopper". She says: "As Jane Grigson once said, good food is about buying the best produce you can afford and cooking it as simply as possible, to emphasise its inherent flavour, rather than fiddling around for hours transforming it into something complicated."

She has been passionate about food since her first taste of exotic foreign provender at the age of five, when the cook in her family's rented French villa would let her tag along on buying expeditions. Ms Green says: "I've always coveted the Europeans, where every town has a market bustling with small producers with their cheeses, their sausages, their bread."

On a trip to the United States ten years ago, she observed how the small farm producers — smoking meat over hickory, producing organic farm vegetables — had transformed the cuisine of America, overturning the notion that to be chic, food had to be foreign. "Those 'food craftspeople' do exist in Britain. You just have to be a detective," she says. Her avowed intention with this guide, however, was to sift the British foods in which we should take national pride from the "sham produce": "ye olde farmhouse" cheeses which are in fact mass-produced, and "home-made" ice-creams, so many of which turned out to be synthetically flavoured that she learnt to recognise who had supplied their coffee or strawberry flavour.

Having previously assembled a definitive guide to British produce for professionals — the award-

winning *British Food Finds* — Ms Green's *Food Lover's Guide* already bulged with the addresses of fine independent producers. "But since everyone mentioned in this book must be prepared to deal with the public, I visited more than 500 shops, growers and manufacturers."

It was not enough to be told by a friend of a friend that so-and-so made the best farmhouse Cheddar or sold the tastiest bread in Britain. Ms Green herself felt compelled to beat an often muddy path to their door. The results have earned the praise of, among others, Egon Ronay, who wrote her a personal letter of effusive congratulations. "It meant so much," she says, "because I knew he understood better than anyone how exhausting a mission like this is."

For a few small producers, her research has had unexpected spin-offs: plugging them into her network of contacts opens up new commercial possibilities. "If we are to preserve our culinary heritage and all its richness and diversity, then small-scale makers working in the 'traditional' way must be fostered and encouraged," she says.

Ms Green readily admits, however, that at times the loneliness of the long-distance gourmet got to her. She was away from home for as much as five weeks at a time, deviating from her route to follow up every "Farm Shop" sign.

But the trip had its lighter moments. "I remember one ludicrous incident, driving through Melton Mowbray, when I stopped at a traffic light and was aware that passers-by were staring at the dashboard of my Golf, where I had ten pork pies lined up — each with a large bite taken out."

The finest of these, however, made it into her book, now destined to become a must for every itinerant food-lover — the food minister Nicholas Soames says he is going to keep a copy in his glove compartment and every armchair shopper, which Ms Green is once again content to be. Fortunately, most of the producers she discovered are happy to supply by mail order. "From now on," she says, "I'm going to let my fingers do the walking." And so, she hopes — for the sake of Britain's independent bakers, fudge-makers, pasticcios, orchard-owners and herring-smokers — will we.

Next week: First exclusive extract from *Henrietta Green's Food Lover's Guide to Britain* (BBC Books, £9.99). Plus: the winner of the *Legs of Great Britain* contest.



Henrietta Green loaded her car with regional foods — "food craftspeople do exist in Britain. You just have to be a detective"

A leading golf club is taking an expensive swing towards 'country house' food. Fiona Beckett reports

## Courses above par



Ian McAndrew in the new kitchen at Wentworth golf club

Golf clubs are not noted for good food. Maybe a decent Sunday roast, but even then the chances of having bullet-hard roast potatoes, soggy cabbage and waterlogged cauliflower in a packet-cheese sauce are depressingly high.

Things could be about to change. The Wentworth club in Surrey, home to the PGA and World Matchplay championships, has just opened a new £10 million clubhouse with a lavishly funded catering operation worthy of a five-star hotel. The project is backed by some big names: the club is owned by the property tycoon Elliott Bernard, and his chief executive is Willy Bauer, a former general manager of the Savoy. Mr Bauer in turn has recruited Ian McAndrew, a former Michelin-starred chef tipped by *The Times* as one of high-flying chefs of the 1990s.

On the face of it, the enterprise could appear a *folie de grandeur*. Golf, you might think, is golf, and what the golfer wants is a decent round, a quick stop at the 19th hole for a pint and a ploughman's and then back to the office.

Not so, according to the Golf Research Group. Of the £531 million earned by Britain's golf clubs in 1991, 23 per cent came from food sales and 19 per cent from drink.

And when you're talking about Wentworth you're not talking about just any old golf course. You're talking about a club on an estate where houses fetch up to £5 million; a catchment area crammed with celebrities from the pages of *Hello!* (this is Fergie territory) and a car-park packed with personalised number plates.

Mr Bernard's and Mr Bauer's dream is to take Wentworth into a golf club mega-league, modelled on the great American country clubs, and serious food is a central

part of the strategy. Mr McAndrew, who comes from the British-food-with-attitude school, has been given free rein to do what he needs to satisfy a demanding but largely traditional clientele. On the opening menu are tartlet of smoked haddock, lemon and herb dumplings with braised onions, pea and ham broth. Dover sole, roast partridge, mixed grill and steamed chocolate sponge.

"When people come off the golf course in winter they want a nice, hot Irish stew, or a steak, kidney and oyster pudding, then they can start all over again," Mr Bauer says. The move from small fashionable restaurants to mass, albeit upmarket mass, catering cannot have been easy for Mr McAndrew. Used to producing exquisitely stylish food, he suddenly finds himself in charge of a kitchen that still needs to produce burgers and chips for the under-12s, and ploughman's platters for their unreconstructed elders. Mr

McAndrew appears not to mind. "I've wanted for a time to get into more basic, robust food. So far as Michelin stars are concerned I've been there, done that," he says.

The burgers have their compensations. To produce them and the rest of his repertoire, Mr McAndrew has been given a kitchen that most chefs would give their right arm for: a spacious, spotlessly clean stretch of stainless steel with a vast bank of "don't you just love being in control" burners that might easily appear in the next British Gas advertising campaign. His wall-to-wall carpeted restaurant has a stunning view, falling away over the 18th hole of the east course to the lake and woodland beyond. Even Raymond Blanc doesn't have a view like that.

To pay for these improvements there has been no pussyfooting. At Mr Bauer's instigation, Wentworth has brought in a charge-card system. Members who already have to stump up £5,000 to get into the club (£2,500 to join, £2,500 for the annual subscription) must also deposit £500 up-front for the catering.

Mr Bauer has no qualms about the system. "Most golf club restaurants are half empty, which makes it difficult to encourage good staff. We wanted a good chef and good service. Now people love it. We have a lot of members who soon spend their credit and put in another £500. It's much the easiest way."

By the end of the year, Mr Bauer will have spent £17 million on the club since he joined Wentworth in 1989. During the same period he has increased the revenue seven times. Catering, which brings in £2 million, is expected to double with the new clubhouse. To put this in

perspective, a medium-sized London restaurant would expect to gross £2-£2½ million.

Country clubs are where the profits of the future lie, Mr Bauer says. "In America the clubs are amazingly comfortable, like a luxurious country house. People go there for the whole weekend. It hasn't hap-

pened here yet. The British have their places in London and houses in the country. But I can see it going that way."

For further information, contact the club at Wentworth Drive, Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4LS (0344 842301). Poultry and Game by Ian McAndrew (Michell Beazley, £14.99).

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مكتبة الأمل



# A bit of a squash for Hallowe'en

Supermarket exotic fruit and vegetable sections bring out the gambler in me. Every so often I throw a wild card into my basket alongside all the tried and tested, dead-cert ingredients.

One of my most successful ventures has led me to the world of pumpkins and squashes. These versatile vegetables, long enjoyed in many other countries, are still largely unfamiliar to British cooks.

Pumpkin and squash come from the same family as courgettes and marrows (*Cucurbita*). Squashes can be soft or hard-skinned, and come into season in the summer and the autumn. Pumpkin flesh makes autumnal and winter dishes, and the remaining pumpkin can be transformed into Hallowe'en jack-o'-lanterns.

America has a strong tradition, predating Columbus, of growing and cooking squash and pumpkin. Leaf through American recipe books and you will find them in breads, soups, pies, muffins, preserves and pickles.

The famous American pumpkin pie is served at festivals in the autumn and winter, such as Thanksgiving. There are many different recipes, flavoured with spices such as ginger and cinnamon, sweetened with molasses, honey or sugar and set with cream, eggs or evaporated milk. The fillings also vary in texture. Some are a creamy custard with a little pumpkin, and others are mostly pumpkin. Frozen or tinned pumpkin purée can be used as a short cut (sold in American supermarkets and some British ones).

Britain's best established pumpkin and squash producers are Ralph and Barbara Upton, who grow about 60 varieties in Slindon, West Sussex. It is impossible to miss their flint-covered home as you come into the village. On a dim, autumn day it is as if the sun has come out: hundreds of brightly coloured pumpkins and squashes cover their shed roofs and bales of straw in the yard.

The range of colours is magnificent. It was no mistake that Cinderella got a pumpkin for a carriage. Gold, setting-sun red, orange and green stripes and slate

blue are some of the hues. The shapes are equally diverse. Some people hang them on the kitchen wall as decorations or use them as doorstops. The very names of squashes and pumpkin varieties make me curious. Gold nugget, Turk's cap and crookneck sound more like racehorses than vegetables.

This weekend the Uptons have on display rows of pumpkins transformed into grinning, gap-toothed lanterns with eyes wide open or winking, ready for candles to be put inside.

Here are some ideas on how to cook two of the most commonly available types of squash, butternut and gem, and pumpkin. They are all sold in larger stores at this time of year, sitting near the chillies and yams in my local supermarket.

You can steam, boil, bake or fry most types. I prefer baking, as it slightly concentrates the flavour. Steaming is quick; boiling makes them a touch too watery; and frying is good for thin slices of the more tender

species — coat them in egg and flour first.

A butternut squash looks like a huge pear with pale apricot skin, swelling out around the seed cavity at the bottom. Simply cut one in half, scoop out the seeds and fibres, put some butter and seasonings in the cavity, wrap it in foil and bake in a moderate oven until tender. One squash feeds two people as a filling side vegetable.

This recipe uses sliced butternut squash to make a warming, colourful gratin.

**Butternut squash, olive and Emmenthal gratin**  
(serves 6)  
2 butternut squashes  
30 black olives  
6oz/170g Emmenthal, sliced  
sage leaves or chives, chopped  
½ pt/200ml milk  
¼ pt/150ml double cream (optional)  
1oz/30g Emmenthal, grated  
1oz/30g butter

Peel the squashes and slice thinly, starting at the thin end. When you get to the seed cavity, slice the rest of the vegetable in half, scoop out



Ralph and Barbara Upton at their home in West Sussex, with hundreds of brightly coloured pumpkins and squashes covering their shed roofs and on bales of straw

the seeds and fibres and continue to slice the flesh to form crescents.

Smear a baking dish with some butter. Put a layer of round squash slices on the bottom. Cover with half the cheese slices, half the olives and half the herbs. Season with black pepper and a little salt. Repeat the process. Finish by arranging the squash crescents on top. Mix the cream and milk and pour on to the gratin. Scatter with grated cheese and dot with butter. Bake for an hour at 170C/325F, gas mark 3.

Ham goes very well with this dish. Either cut it into strips and bake inside the gratin or serve slices of cold ham alongside it.

The dark green gem squash is easy to handle because it is so small: roughly the size and shape of a tennis ball. Cut the top off and scoop out the seeds and fibres to make an excellent little case for stuffings, such as mozzarella, basil leaves and chopped roasted red peppers; crumbled cooked bacon, butter and maple syrup; and whole cherry tomatoes, chopped spring onions and cheddar.

Bake the stuffed squashes in a bain-marie for about 20 minutes

at 190C/375F, gas mark 5. Simply baked with a knob of butter and some brown sugar or maple syrup inside, gems make an unusual accompaniment to ham or chicken.

This is a more complicated recipe which works as a first course for a smart dinner or as a lunch dish, served with salad and some pasta.

**Gem squash with anchovy and basil soufflé**  
(serves 4)  
8 gem squashes  
½ oz/15g butter  
½ oz/15g flour  
¼ pt/150ml milk  
2 anchovies, chopped  
basil leaves, torn up roughly  
2 eggs, separated

Cut the top off the squashes, remove the seeds and fibres. Bake for 15-20 minutes at 190C/375F, gas mark 5, in a bain-marie.

Melt the butter, add the flour. Cook for a minute, stirring. Take off the heat and stir in the milk gradually. Put back on the heat and cook, stirring, until thick. Add the anchovies, which soon melt into the mixture. Take off the heat. Add the

basil leaves and egg yolks. Season well. Beat the whites until they form peaks and fold into the mixture. Put a couple of spoonfuls into the cooked gem cases and bake at 190C/375F/gas mark 5 for ten minutes, still in the bain-marie.

Bright orange pumpkin flesh looks good, works well in savoury or sweet dishes and has a refreshing consistency. You can keep an uncut pumpkin until Christmas.

Pumpkin and squash seeds are good to nibble. Dry them out in the oven and sprinkle with salt, or toast the dried seeds quickly in a pan with some salt and spices.

Pumpkin flesh has a subtle sweetness. It is not a powerful flavour so I either leave it very plain, by roasting chunks next to a joint of roast beef, for example, or use it as a backdrop for stronger flavours.

This speedy and attractive pumpkin soup is made with a strong Japanese ingredient, miso. Miso is a salty paste made from soy beans fermented with various grains. It varies from the light-coloured and sweet to the dark and intensely savoury. I tend to use a spoonful each of light and dark miso in this

soup, but you could use just one type. It keeps well in the fridge and a little adds flavour to stews and soups.

**Pumpkin and miso soup**  
(serves 4)  
½ onion, chopped  
cooking oil  
1lb/450g peeled pumpkin, cut into 1cm dice  
2pt/1 litre water  
2tbsp miso  
2 spring onions, finely sliced

Soften the onion in a little oil. Add the pumpkin and water. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for about five minutes or until the pumpkin is tender.

Mix the miso with a little of the cooking liquid to loosen the paste. Add to the pot. Bring almost to the boil. Put in bowls and scatter with sliced spring onion.

One pound of peeled pumpkin is produced by roughly half of a 4lb pumpkin. Do not season the soup as the miso is very salty.

Here is a pudding which displays pumpkin's colour by layering it with white Greek yoghurt and crumbled macaroons.

**Pumpkin, ginger and macaroon layered pudding**

(serves 6)  
1½ lb/680g seeded pumpkin flesh  
2 bulbs of stem ginger, chopped  
2tbsp stem ginger syrup  
1½tbsp Grand Marnier (optional)  
approx 1lbsp maple syrup or sugar  
1lb/450g Greek yoghurt  
4oz/110g macaroon biscuits

Cut the pumpkin into 1in pieces. Steam until soft. Leave to cool and then peel. Mash or process to a purée. Add the ginger, ginger syrup and, if you like, Grand Marnier. Add maple syrup or sugar to taste.

Put a layer of pumpkin in the bottom of six small glasses, such as wine or whisky glasses, or in a single glass bowl. Put on a layer of greek yoghurt and then some roughly crumbled macaroon. Repeat the three layers, finishing with the biscuit on top.

Other biscuits, such as ginger-nuts or digestives, can be used instead of macaroons. Alternative flavourings for the pumpkin are grated orange peel, other liqueurs, and spices such as nutmeg, ground ginger and cinnamon.

## DISH OF THE DAY



Chef: The Rev Dr Peter Miln, aged 49.

Born: Walton-on-Thames, the son of a Belgian mother and South African father.

**Restaurant/pub:** The Wellington, 78 High Street, Utteter, Staffordshire ST14 7JD (0889 562616).

**Present:** Apart from local pulpits, occasionally preaches at the French Protestant Church in London. A passionate fan of Belgium, his menu is based on family recipes and the work of Gaston Clement, the celebrated Belgian gastronome. "You can't have a true Belgian restaurant without mussels, but I have a problem getting really decent ones. Eel, also, is practically impossible for me to get, so I have to miss out on some great dishes."

**Past:** Trained in kitchens in London and Brussels. Ran his first restaurant, Le Bistro Belge, in Derby, before going into teaching. Former head of the school of catering at Waltham Forest College, Essex. Opened The Wellington at the beginning of 1993.

**Personal:** "When people ask what a minister is doing running a pub, I say the church has always provided refreshment for travellers and pilgrims. And don't forget, much of Jesus's teaching was at table; there were plenty of suppers before that last..."

**Dish:** Filet de limande blanquette, £6.50. Made with lemon sole or, better still, Dover sole, sautéed in butter with a sauce made from glace de viande, cream and a dollop of spicy Belgian mustard. Main courses from £3.50 to £9.

CLARISSA HAYMAN

## Jet-setting into conformity

Are flying winemakers forcing blandness on the market?

This flying winemaker business is getting out of hand. No sooner had Hugh Ryman made an unbeatable £2.99 chardonnay in Moldova (followed, we hope, by an equally brilliant Moldavian sauvignon and rksisteli than he was off to Hungary, before flipping back to base in Bordeaux. Several months later, he is making wine in the southern hemisphere, in South Africa and Chile.

Mr Ryman, the hard-working and no doubt permanently jet-lagged flying winemaker extraordinaire, gets everywhere these days. This winter almost every high-street outlet will carry a full range of his French wines plus a clutch of his bottles from Moldova, Hungary, South Africa and Chile. Some three dozen different wines in total.

Mr Ryman's closest competitor is Jacques Lurton, also trained in Bordeaux, who makes wines for Tesco, among others, in Italy, France, Spain, Argentina, Australia and South Africa. By my calculations, two dozen of these are on sale here this winter.

Britain's wine drinkers will also have the pick this winter of another 16 flying winemakers and their teams' wines. Like Mr Ryman and M. Lurton, most of these have either finished their training with a lengthy work-experience stint in Australia, or were trained there to start with.

As the name suggests, flying winemakers provide a high-tech, new-wave, flying wine-doctor service to the world's most remote, underskilled cellars and vineyards, generally just before and during the all-important vintage season, before moving on.

There is nothing new in this squeaky-clean New World expertise moving around the Old World's vineyards and grubby cellars. The Sunday Times Wine Club's Australian flying winemaker team was doing just that as early as 1987. But what is new in the 1990s is

the sheer volume of wine available in Britain's shops, usually in those vital £2.99, £3.99 and £4.99 price bands, and the huge number of winemakers occupied in the flying wine game.

What separates these flying winemakers and their wines from the old-fashioned, traditional ones they perfect and play around with is their belief in technology first, terroir second.

**Terroir** is that French notion that soil, aspect, climate and grape variety are essential to the production of good wine. The right technology, so the flying winemakers argue, enables them, with the minimum terroir requirements,

to turn adequate but not exceptional grapes into good quality everyday wines. To do this they use such new-fangled techniques as night picking, by mechanical harvesters, the use of modern, inoculated yeast strains plus cold fermentation, followed by skin contact, lees aging and months maturing in new oak barrels. The results — keenly-priced, fresh, zippy, citrusy whites and rich, smooth, fruity reds — are in many cases far more impressive than the originals.

So what is wrong with flying winemakers and their inexpensive, easy drinking, new-wave wines? A slight but growing tendency to produce neutral, high-tech, squeaky-clean wines that, tasted blind, could come from almost anywhere. I find the much-vaunted Chais Baumiére range made by Australia's B.R.L. Hardy in southern France dreary and over-priced at £3.99. The same criticism could be levelled at several of Jacques Lurton's Tesco International Winemaker wines and those of the Domaine Virginie, also from southern France, made by another Australian.

Many flying winemakers also need to get several vintages in one place under their belt before they produce the best the area can do. Apart from the possible dangers of bland uniformity, flying winemakers have also been criticised for slavish devotion to popular varieties such as the ultra-fashionable chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon followed by the likes of sauvignon blanc, merlot, semillon and syrah. This bothers me less but it would indeed be sad if characterful, indigenous grape varieties were to die out at the expense of the successful six.

What is needed is a happy balance of the old terroir and new-world high-tech sirengins, and my hunch is that that is just what will happen during the next decade.

JANE MACQUITTY

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## Drought conditions in the October deluge

Despite one of the wettest autumns on record, an Essex garden has been designed to flourish in the dry



Beth Chatto with drought-resistant bouquet

East Anglia, usually the driest part of the country, has had the worst autumn rains for nearly 30 years. So, after driving through floods to see Beth Chatto's latest project near Colchester, Essex, I fully expected her celebrated gardens to be submerged. She greeted me with a huge bunch of flowers she had picked in the early morning sunshine after the rain and, tracking the origin of this bouquet, we went first to look at her new project — a dry gravel garden designed to resemble a parched river bed, but planted with drought-resistant plants.

No hint of the rainstorms was visible: the greens, greys and golds of foliage were offset by crimson sedums, pink schizostylis and banks of winding yellow black-eyed Susans. The rapid drainage of the underlying gravel is the reason that this garden looked so untouched by the torments.

Mrs Chatto's plan was to make a garden which would be a model for gardeners with drought-prone, quickly draining soils, where water retention is at a minimum even after the addition of compost and manure. She had not bargained on demonstrating its resilience to autumnal squalls.

November gardens can easily slide into dreariness, so it is worth investigating ideas for flowers and foliage which continue up to and through the early frosts.

Mrs Chatto demonstrates how they should also contribute variation in texture: low, dense, umbrella heads of sedums, for example; camellia, with its tiny froth of purple flowerheads melting into the grey-green of the foliage; po-

### WEEKEND TIPS

- Increase watering and begin feeding cyclamen as they come up to flowering.
- Protect newly planted evergreens with windbreak netting.
- Plant tulips: normally aim for about 4-6in of soil above the top of the bulb.
- Dig over and fertilise ground for new trees and shrubs.
- Install a thermostatically controlled heater in the greenhouse to prevent freezing.

lygonums with their bright little brush heads, and verbasiums, whose towering form adds necessary verticals among the clumps.

Among the most dependable plants for long-term multiple flowerheads are the tender perennial plants we

imable freshness. Nerines, with their curved, waxy, pink petals, bloom late and hold their heads up through the first frosts.

The small-flowered Michaelmas daisies, *Aster erioideus* and *A. pringlei*, are invaluable for the autumn garden. Although they look fragile, they are very hardy and flower through rains and frosts.

Another treasure for those of us who lack space is the beautiful grass *Miscanthus yakuishimensis*, a scaled-down version of the rich, fountain-like grass which flowers in early autumn, changing to straw and brown later in the autumn.

Grasses such as this, as well as the seedheads of perennials and evergreens, will carry the garden through the winter.

FRANCESCA GREENOAK

● Beth Chatto Gardens, Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex CO1 7DB. Last Saturday opening to day, then Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm. Entry £1.50. The catalogue costs £2.50, and orders can be taken for immediate, or spring delivery.



On their marks with the team for the lawn test, from left, grabber rake, brush sweeper, Leafbuster, Little Billy, Garden Vac, Billy Goat Termite

## Just the job to turn over an old leaf

With blowers, suckers, rakes and sweepers, Liz Gerard gets to work clearing up the lawn

When Alfred Kilmer was moved to poetry by a tree, you can bet it had not just completed its annual striptease. As any gardener knows, the sight of all those discarded clothes left wantonly on the ground is more likely to inspire the blues than the muse.

Machines to help with the autumn clear-up have, until now, been the province of the ultra-rich. But suddenly the choice is baffling. So I gathered a small team to try everything from an old rake to a hugely expensive machine. As far as possible, each gadget was put through its paces on grass, patio, gravel and soil — not so much a field trial as a cottage garden test.

All manufacturers say their equipment should not be used by children. Knowing that children like to "help", we let a couple have a go, but they were well supervised and their boredom threshold was low, so they soon handed the machines back to the grown-ups.

● The Billy Goat Termite is an aristocrat of the leaf-sweeping community: it gobbles up everything in its path and has a built-in chipper that is far more powerful than any free-standing shredder on the domestic market. The five-horsepower Honda petrol engine is supposed to be easy to start, but it was not even when warm. And once coaxed into life, it was almost unbearably noisy, hard to push and

difficult to manoeuvre — but our testers forgave it almost anything because it was so efficient on every surface, including gravel. This is very much a machine for the country estate, though. The 26in Termite costs £1,550. Optional accessories include a £95 hose attachment. Rivals include the Bolens self-propelled variable speed Maxi Chipper-Vac at £1,150.

● The Termite's baby brother, Little Billy, is far cheaper and far less efficient. This machine was fine at picking up dry leaves on compacted mud, but it completely ignored wet leaves on the grass — and it dug deep grooves in the lawn.

The 20in Little Billy costs £490, hose kit £95. The rival Bolens Mini Chipper Vac with shredder, is £499. Billy Goats are available from Bob Andrews of Blacknell, Berkshire (0344 862111); Bolens from Claymore Grass Machinery of Biddford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (0799 801771).

● Those wheel tracks can be avoided by using hand-held vacuums, such as Echo's Shred 'n' Vac. This two-stroke model has a powerful blower that hustles leaves into position like a dog with sheep; and the vacuum is so efficient that it should not be used on borders or gravel: it dug up forget-me-nots and ate stones. The built-in shredder combined with a big shoul-

der bag means you can collect a lot of leaves without stopping — and they are easy to mulch. The motorbike whine gets to your ears and the vibration to your hands. But this was the machine we returned to after the test.

Echo's Shred 'n' Vac is £295 from Heron Products, Crawley, West Sussex (0292 515000). Echo also makes a petrol vacuum at £149.95.

● A more likely choice for the average gardener is Black & Decker's electric Leafbuster. It blows, sucks and shreds with distinction, but is heavy, cumbersome and quite uncomfortable to handle. It is also noisy, vibrates a lot and the flex is a nuisance after the Echo. Such inconveniences are, however, offset by the speed at which it works, sucking up leaves from corners or planted borders and chopping them into dry morsels. One tester liked this best: others were put off by the palaver involved in changing from blower to vacuum.

The Leafbuster is £95.99, excluding cable, from garden centres.

● Fimo's Garden Vac is a stylish, easy-to-use machine that worked on every surface and does everything the Leafbuster does apart from chew up leaves. It is more comfortable and

changes functions at the touch of a switch, but it is much slower. The men voted this their favourite. The Garden Vac costs £75.99 from garden centres and DIY stores. Other electric sweepers come from Ryobi (which also has one that converts to a strimmer) at £159.95 and McCulloch at £99.99.

● Before the age of the hand-held vacuum, the brush sweeper was the lord of the leaves. Looking like a cross between a mower and a pram, brush sweepers whip debris up into a triangular plastic container. Very effective on level grass, it is hampered by its unwieldy shape. It does not work on soil and will not go round corners, but it is good on a lawn or patio. The Ginge 20in sweeper is £69.99 from J.T. Lowe of Christchurch, Dorset (0202 450412). Bob Andrews Rapid Sweeper costs £129. Allen's brush sweeper is £99.95 (0255 813936).

● Simpler still is the grabber rake, a green plastic contraption that clutches the leaves it has gathered. It cleans up quite well, but you have to put your back into the work. The grabber rake costs £16.95 plus P&P from the Traditional Garden Supply Co, Cranleigh, Surrey (0483 733660).

After all the gadgets, a plastic rake head lashed to a broomstick and a pair of wooden boards were among the most popular ways of clearing up. And we did not even try another perfectly adequate tool that lurks in most garden sheds — a mower.

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Entertainments also appear  
on page 17



Sale diary

□ Marilyn Monroe fans have plenty to choose from at Bonhams, when the Eve Arnold collection of photographs comes under the hammer on Thursday. Miss Arnold recorded images of the star from her fresh-faced early days right through to disillusioned super-stardom. Offerings include her relaxing among some Long Island but rushes in 1952, and disporting with Clark Gable on the set of *Mighty*. Prices for these and further Arnold images of Marlon Brando, Rudolf Nureyev and the Queen range from £300-£2,000.

□ Two further distinguished women will be celebrated at Christie's South Kensington's third annual auction of pottery by the late Clarice Cliff, and the nonagenarian Susie Cooper. Their brightly coloured designs, bearing cheery titles such as "Swirls", are expected to range in price from the low hundreds to the low thousands.

□ Meanwhile, from November 2, the Contemporary Arts Society will set out to prove you don't have to be Madonna or Charles Saatchi to buy art, with its annual art supermarket at Smith's Galleries in Covent Garden. More than a thousand works will be on offer by contemporary artists such as Sir Anthony Caro, David Mach and Bridget Riley, as well as unknowns. Sponsorship from Sainsbury's means buyers can take purchases away in supermarket bags.

□ During musical instrument week in London, Phillips will offer the first Stradivarius violin on the market for two years at £150,000-£250,000, while Sotheby's has the world's smallest violin at up to £2,500. Shorter in length than a 50p piece and capable of being played, this recent entry into the *Guinness Book of Records* was made by the Swiss craftsman Cornel Schneider. Anyone doubting its authenticity can look inside for the tiny maker's label.

□ Finally comes Sotheby's Victorian paintings sale, where buyers could find themselves competing against Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber for two fine neo-Classical works by Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema: "Egyptian chess players", estimated at £90,000, and "Spring Flowers", in which a stupefied girl carries a vase, estimated at £35,000. The composer is Britain's biggest collector in this category and sometimes attends sales.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

□ Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 (071-584 9161). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7611). Smith's Galleries, 28 Neal Street, WC2 (071-836 6252). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 6602). Sotheby's, 34 New Bond Street, W1 (071-893 8090).

# How to pick tomorrow's writers today

Although there is nothing new about collecting 20th-century books, there is still a general feeling that first editions are all about venerable age, leather bindings and prices that bring tears to the eyes.

There is a steadily growing interest in the whole business of collecting modern first editions — indeed, many desirable books may still be found for less than the price of a newly published novel. People are often surprised to discover that their own shelves are littered with recent but already scarce goodies, for the simple truth is that if you have been in the habit of buying newly published quality literature, poetry and drama during the past ten or 20 years, you will almost certainly have gathered more than a few rarities along the way.

Most modern first editions still fall into the £10-£200 price range, although the very rarest items can fetch up to £20,000 or even more if they are for some reason unique — a special inscription by the author, for example. The key to a successful collection lies in choosing first editions (in the best condition) of literature that is to your taste. It is crazy to follow fashions — you could end up having paid far too much for books you never really wanted in the first place.

So who should one buy in the 1990s? When I started my own collection about 20 years ago, I had the pick of the most startling array of authors: Iris Murdoch, Ian Fleming, Agatha Christie, Kingsley Amis, Tom Stoppard, Muriel Spark, Harold Pinter, John Le Carré, Roald Dahl, John Osborne — even William Golding and P.G.

After last week's look at first editions, Joseph Connolly picks modern contenders



Joseph Connolly and a star

Wodehouse — all in fine first editions, and all at a few pounds a time. Booksellers simply did not rate anyone later than Auden and Eliot, Greene and Waugh, and first editions of 1950s and 1960s authors were mixed in with reprints.

Thus I entered my obsessive phase. All trips in and out of London were planned around the

multiplicity and quality of bookshops, and before I understood what was happening, I had bought my own antiquarian bookshop and was writing the book I desperately needed — a guide to collecting modern first editions.

Times have changed. People today are very aware of collecting generally, and although it might still be possible to pick up the odd treasure in a dusty bookshop, you should never expect to.

However, antiquarian booksellers are a fairly old-fashioned crew, and your knowledge and appreciation of current literature might well be superior to theirs. Such authors as Wendy Cope, Booker prize-winner Roddy Doyle, Rose Tremain and Nigel Williams are not exactly ignored, but it should be possible to gather quite a haul fairly cheaply. You are too late for Julian Barnes, Peter Ackroyd, Salman Rushdie (and about 15 years too late for Martin Amis), but there is still time to gather up Garrison Keillor, Nicholas Shakespeare, Peter Carey, Sebastian Faulks, Art Spiegelman, Ellis Peters, Elaine Feinstein, Nicholson Baker, Don de Lillo, James Kelman, Jay McInerney, Barry Unsworth and even the rather undervalued John Mortimer. Vikram Seth (the famous Booker non-winner) should not be ignored, while opinion is divided about the wild boy of fiction, Will Self: is it a cocktail of hype, cleverness and porn, or something more? Better get him — just to be on the safe side.

● The fourth edition of Joseph Connolly's *Modern First Editions* their value to collectors is published by Little, Brown at £25.

CURRENT COLLECTING PASSIONS

On the rise

Kingsley Amis  
Martin Amis  
Julian Barnes  
Samuel Beckett  
Saul Bellow  
Alan Bennett  
Angela Carter  
Raymond Chandler  
Agatha Christie  
Richmal Crompton  
Dick Francis  
Henry Green  
Graham Greene  
Seamus Heaney  
P.D. James  
George Orwell  
John Osborne  
Ruth Rendell  
Evelyn Waugh  
P.G. Wodehouse

Holding steady

John Betjeman  
William Boyd  
Anthony Burgess  
Roald Dahl  
Lawrence Durrell  
Ian Fleming  
Kazuo Ishiguro  
James Joyce  
Philip Larkin  
D.H. Lawrence  
Doris Lessing  
Louis MacNeice  
Iris Murdoch  
Vladimir Nabokov  
V.S. Naipaul  
Anthony Powell  
Salman Rushdie  
Tom Stoppard  
J.R.R. Tolkien  
Virginia Woolf

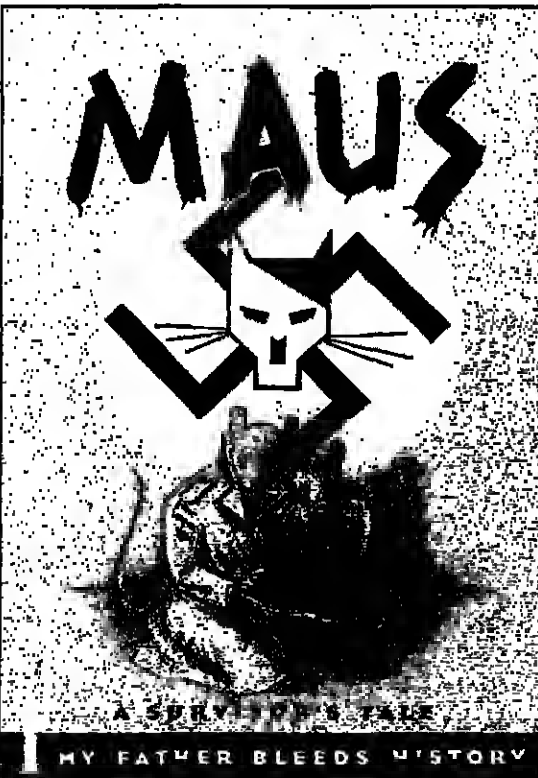
On the wane

Peter Ackroyd  
W.H. Auden  
Anita Brookner  
Margaret Drabble  
T.S. Eliot  
John Fowles  
William Golding  
Ted Hughes  
David Lodge  
Ian McEwan  
Timothy Mo  
Edna O'Brien  
Mervyn Peake  
Harold Pinter  
Ezra Pound  
Barbara Pym  
Tom Sharpe  
Muriel Spark  
Graham Swift  
A.N. Wilson

## Sebastian FAULKS

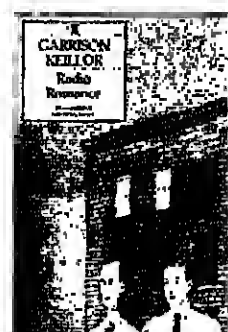


## BIRDSONG



Still time to gather up Faulks and Spiegelman

WHERE TO BUY



MOST second-hand bookshops devote a section, however small, to modern first editions, and the many provincial book fairs (details from your local bookshop) are excellent hunting grounds. Auctions can produce

bargains, but one can also get severely burnt. Car-boot and jumble sales should not be overlooked, but do not expect to unearth treasure at them.

THE specialist shops tend to be in London. Here is a selection: Ulysses Bookshop, 40 Museum Street, London WC1A 1LH (071-637 5862). Bell, Book and Radmall, 4 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE (071-240 2161). Bertram Rota, 9-11 Langley Court, London WC2E 9RX (071-836 0723). Skob Books, 15 Sicilian Arcade, London WC1A 2QH (071-404 3063).

Muslims in a Berkshire town have established a colourful free market — complete with its own, coins-only currency system

# The market that bans banknotes

What sort of monetary revolution is it that bans banknotes and uses gold and silver coins bearing Scottish nationalist slogans: a currency conceived in the shadow of a mosque in Slough?

Each Saturday morning crowds of Muslims gather in a marketplace to trade in a way that harks back to 8th-century Arabia. Tucked under the slip-road for the M4 to London, at the junction of the aptly named India and Diamond roads, the roar of the traffic does little to dull the business-like bustle of this colourful "free" market (there is no charge for market stalls), where anything from rice and spices to fake designer shoes is on sale.

Here, a small band of Muslim converts is challenging the established order of trade by banning the use of paper money. Instead, it mints its own coins in a bid to resurrect ancient Islamic codes of business.

Weaving between the brightly clothed children rushing around the stalls is Othman, the "cadi" (a judge in a Muslim community) and unofficial banker, who exchanges the customers' British currency into silver dirhams and gold dinars. The rate of exchange, based on the cost of minting the 22-carat gold and sterling silver coins, is £45 for a dirham and £2.25 a dinar.

Shop around and a pot of home-made honey can be had for seven-tenths of a dirham (£1.57) and a multi-coloured weave basket for under two dirhams. As there are no smaller denominations, change is given in sterling.

Minted abroad, the Diamond Road Mosque market coins were originally destined for an Islamic community in Scotland and bear the legends, "Now's the day and now's the hour" and "As long as we remain alive". However, the organisers are considering shaving costs by commissioning a firm of medallion makers in the Midlands to manufacture a new set of coins for them.

The main architect behind the idea is Salih, the white convert son of a merchant banker, who sells pulses and rice and has a lucrative sideline importing Peruvian asparagus. "What we are trying to do is put the true value back into the exchange between buyer and seller," he says. "They can see that their gold and silver is actually worth something instead of being just a piece of paper."

Inside a makeshift tent, the community elders take off their shoes, sit cross-legged on elaborate carpets and discuss in Urdu the day's trade, while being served hot, black coffee and freshly baked cakes. Resplendent in his gleaming

white traditional robes, cap set off by his long dark beard, Muhammad Zafar, a community leader, spreads his arms wide and speaks of his hopes for the market's future.

"Look at Mr Mars Bar," he

says, referring to the company which has been based in Slough since 1932. "He started making his chocolates by hand; look at where his company is now. These things take time."

Mr Zafar hopes the venture

will find support from non-Muslims who, he feels, will see the benefit of this kind of trading system.

"We want everyone to see that we are setting a moral example in the way we conduct our business," he says.

Often a place as much of banter as of barter, the market is a focal point for people to meet and trade rather than a money-spinning forum for the small-time entrepreneur. Word is spreading fast, mainly through the women in the

community, who discuss the latest bargains over the counters of local stores.

Azal, a 19-year-old bookseller, says: "I don't come here for the money, I come here to see the establishment of a free market. For me that is the most important thing." So important that he uprooted from Birmingham to be at the nucleus of the movement.

JULES LEE



Dirhams at the ready, girls from Slough's Muslim community pore over books at a stall in the town's "free trade" market

**DIAMOND ROAD MARKET**

THE free market is held in the car park of the Diamond Road Mosque in Slough every Saturday, 10am-5.30pm. There are strict rules:

- It is free. There are no tariffs or taxes for stalls.
- No usury is permitted.
- Stalls are allotted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- All paper money is prohibited, but the use of coins of the realm is allowed for change.
- No one is allowed to sell their goods on the way to the market.
- No one is allowed to buy something and sell it for profit in the same market or within a three-mile radius. (These last two are, in fact, old English laws).
- If you own a store/shop you are not allowed to sell your goods from that source, you must bring them to the market for sale.
- No monopoly and no price fixing.
- No reduction for bulk purchases, as this squeezes out small traders who have to pay more for their goods.

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# The ripcording tale of a lark in the sky

STEVE HILL

All in a good cause.

**Andrew Pierce**  
swallows his panic  
and makes a  
sponsored  
parachute jump

I began to agree with the suggestion that I might be mad when I wedged myself into the open door of the aeroplane with my feet dangling in the air, 2,000ft above the ground, preparing to hurt myself into the abyss.

As I tumbled into nothingness, shouting "1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000" as instructed, with my arms and legs outstretched, I was dimly aware that not only was I falling fast, and that the bottom had dropped out of my stomach, but that I was terrified.

Before panic had a chance to set in, the static link worked, my parachute opened, and as I was dragged across the sky, calm descended all around.

"Where is the airfield?" I gasped as I grabbed the toggles which steered the chute. "God, is it even open properly?" It was. Would I have remembered to pull the emergency cord if it was not? I'm not convinced.

The road, I thought, should not be down there. Steer away from the River Orwell, it is too close. Worse, that fence looks dangerous. I turned the chute slowly round. There it was. The relief. The feeling of elation as I spotted Ipswich airfield, my target.

I swooped like a bird. I turned into the wind, which was gusting at five miles an hour, to slow my descent. "I'm enjoying this," I thought.

In a cricket match far below, I watched the batsman score two runs. It is much more sedate up here, I thought. The sailing on the river looked good. The sun shimmered on the water's surface.

My friends, Ali and Matthew, had landed. They must be OK. No stretchers in sight.

None of us had wanted to go first, or last. We tried to convince ourselves that we were doing the right thing. It had been a long wait. It was the fourth attempt to jump. High winds had put paid to the previous attempts.

We were determined because we were raising money for the Globe Centre, a drop-in centre in the East End of London for people who are HIV positive.

Not everyone wanted to sponsor me. Helpful friends pointed out that parachute jumps cost the NHS more money than they raise because of the carnage they can wreak. I had done one in 1980 when I was 18, I declared triumphantly. "Well, you should know better then," was the usual response.

Undaunted, and with pledges of several thousand pounds between us, we went to Ipswich Parachute Centre for a weekend training course. It was awful.

We were put through our paces by bullying instructors, jumping this way and that, backwards and forwards. When we failed to grasp



With both feet firmly on the ground again, a grinning Andrew Pierce proudly displays the certificate testifying to his parachute jump — "I knew then I must be mad. I'm going to do it again"

the technique, knees bent, feet together, swinging to the left or right, we were humiliated by the experts.

We dragged the chutes around, pretended we understood how they operated, talked about theory, and promptly forgot most of what we had heard.

The next day we were up with the lark, bruised from the previous exertions, ready for more ritual humiliation. We did not care. We were jumping after lunch. Actually, no, it turned out we were not jumping after lunch. It was too windy. Such an anticlimax. We waited for hours. It merely increased the anxiety.

Four of our group managed it a few days later. After endless telephone calls and wasted trips to Ipswich, the remaining three of us finally arrived at an airfield bathed in sunshine. "Too windy," we were told. We vowed to wait until midnight. But the wind dropped and 45 minutes later we were kitted up. We were finally going up. The instructor asked what was the most important thing I should remember. "Jump out and look up at the wing-mounted camera," I said. He was not amused.

There was much chain-smoking, posing for photos, and feeble jokes to our friends, who had come to watch, about where we had left the will. The walk to the plane seemed to take for ever (it was 20 seconds).

And why was I grinning like an idiot?

When we reached 2,000ft I looked out of the window, and wished I hadn't. It made me feel sick. Ali and Matthew were quiet. Matthew went first. It seemed OK. Ali jumped, or was she pushed? No. She fell out in an undignified tangle of limbs.

The plane circled the airfield. In 60 seconds it would be my turn. I could feel the colour drain from my cheeks. No, I would not smile for the photographer perched in the cockpit. I edged to the doorway and looked down, an even worse mistake. The instructor, human at last, smiled encouragement. "Go," he barked. Did he mean me? No. He must mean someone else. But I had gone. I forgot to look up.

It was so peaceful, so calm, and relaxed. Much better than therapy. I knew I was about to land when I could see daisies. I did not want it to end. It seemed unfair. Those bruises, the humiliation, anxiety and sleepless nights for less than two minutes in the air.

I hit the floor with a bump and swung to the left. I had made it. I knew then I must be mad. I'm going to do it again. Next time I will look up at the camera.

Weekend training courses at Ipswich Parachute Centre, Ipswich Airport, Newton Road, Ipswich, cost £105. If you do not jump within six months of the training, a half-rate fee is charged for a refresher course. For further information, ring 0437 710044.



The instructors give a last-minute briefing before the take-off



In the cabin of the aeroplane, the group waits for the word to go

Together or alone, young or old, everybody is welcome when the barns echo to the stamp of dancing feet

## Take your partners or come on your own

"Come to the barn dance tomorrow." Any other kind of dance and such short notice would have given me leeway to get out of it. No time to fix up a babysitter, have a dress cleaned, find a partner. But a barn dance is an impromptu come-as-you-are, with anybody-or-nobody occasion, and these excuses will not wash. Nor will pleas that you cannot dance and must have a course of lessons. Roger Trim, who, as part of the Tranters Folly group, barn-dances up and down the country, says: "The steps take three minutes to learn."

The difficult part, I was told, would be getting there. As it turned out, Loughorse Lane wound compliantly to the farm road leading to Buston Manor Barn: it was reality that I nearly lost track of.

The acres of Kentish corn, the dewponds and the copices where they still burn charcoal, could have been charred by Cobbett on his ritual rides, as could the barn, 14th-century, timber-framed and hip-roofed. "Built on the spring line," says Evelyn Boscawen, the owner, "as they all were."

Such rural idylls jostle uneasily with the demands of an entertainment licence, an essential piece of paper if you are involving the public in this kind of event, and one which can prove nail-bitingly elusive. "Ours was only confirmed this morning," said Dr Joy Virden. "Next time we'll apply sooner."

The dance is being held in aid of her surgery's scanner appeal.

Emergency fire exits have been highlighted. Torches are at the ready. Sand-filled buckets have been placed strategically for cigarette butts. And a striped beach tent, marked "ladies" in large letters, stands beside the main entrance.



Kicking up their heels to that old-time music at a dance at Buston Manor Barn in Kent

Also in stripes is Geraldine Brown, a fortysomething management accountant who is organising this event. She is wearing a shepherdess-style dress with a petticoat hanging below. She has pigtail with a ribbon, just like Judy Garland playing Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* (the resemblance,

she says, is not intentional). "I thought I'd have to bamboozle people into coming," she says. "But not a bit of it." Two hundred tickets at £7 each (including barbecue and pudding) just sold themselves.

"Come and join in," she urges. Behind her, jumping up and down on the spot to the strains of "Dye ken John Peel", is a conga of about a third of the guests, ranging in age from two to 73. They are

wearing stetsons, dungarees, neckties and gingham, with a smattering of Crimplene and jeans. I cover in the way non-sporty parents do when support for the mothers' and fathers' races is being drummed up.

The conga moves into the lighted barn. The band, dressed in traditional Dorset feather-stitch with English flowers and birds, strum "The

Rakes of Mallow" and "The Woodchopper's Reel".

"All join hands. Into the middle," calls Mr Trim. The Tranters Folly group are Thomas Hardy enthusiasts.

"He collected many of these tunes," says Mr Trim. The young Hardy played his violin in Sturford Church and at country dances in the neighbouring area. On the 150th anniversary of his birth, Mr Trim borrowed the violin from the Dorchester Museum, took it to Westminster Abbey and played "Rosebud in Summer" in Hardy's honour.

Mr Trim's elder brother Eddie strums the banjo, and talks of how his interest in country dancing was sparked at primary school. Nick Thomas, a teacher, is playing the accordion. Their feet keep robust time with the music as Roger Trim leans over the microphone. "Tiralo a la loola la loola la lay."

The floor is filling up. Charlie Williams, a pensioner who went to his first barn dance 30 years ago, says: "It's a laugh. You can go to some dances and never make critical contact."

Frederick Dalton, a doyen of ballroom dancing for 40 years, has never been to a barn dance before and is wondering why not. "It's really nice to see people happy and enjoying themselves like this," he says.

By now the rhythm has picked nearly everyone out of their seats. "Way down upon the Swanee river, far far away. Circle round the lady," shouts Mr Trim. "Into the middle and back."

Maria Schofield, 23, who is just finishing at university, last went to a barn dance when

she was ten. She has not stopped dancing all night. "They don't have this type of thing in London," she says. "It's brilliant. Completely different."

Robin Riley, a solicitor from Patching, West Sussex, now has barn dances instead of the more run-of-the-mill office parties. His daughter, aged two, can join in, too. "There's such a racket, it doesn't matter about children," he says. The one he remembers best was when "it was tipping with rain and it came in through the roof. That made for lots of togetherness."

"I don't think barn dances work so well when they are not in barns," says Veronica Wooding, who goes to half a dozen each summer and the odd one in winter. "They used to have them in the Maidstone Corn Exchange, but it wasn't the same. I hope they have 'Oxo' here tonight. You circle and cross and circle and then when you have formed the position, you shout 'Oxo'."

It is nearly midnight and I have to go. To the slow waltz of "Oom pah pah". I make my way to the car. I wish I could have stayed for longer. It is not the getting there that is proving the difficult part: it is pulling myself away.

JESSICA GORST WILLIAMS

For details about barn dances taking place countryside wide with stamped self-addressed envelope to English Folk Dance and Song Society, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY, or telephone 071-485 2206 on weekdays between 9.30am and 5pm.

Tranters Folly Barn Dances and Party Concerts, Roger Trim, 256 Westbury, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3EA (01538) 4639.

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سكناء من الامم



# Pawns in the hands of the wizard of wood

It is hard to imagine a request that could faze Andrew Varah. In the 20 years since he set up his own furniture workshop, he has been asked to design and make everything from jewellery boxes to boardroom tables, in styles as varied as his clients' tastes. Gothic, art deco and even Chinese furniture have been some of the inspirations for his custom-made pieces, each one unique.

A dealer in financial futures asked for a set of four chairs to symbolise his daily dealings with chance: a playing card theme was the result, with the chair backs carved into the shapes of a club, heart, spade and diamond.

One current project is even more challenging — a man who has retired from a career in India wants a desk that will remind him of an elephant.

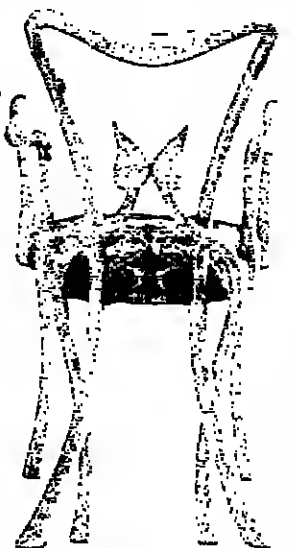
His versatility helps to explain the zest that Mr Varah brought to designing the pair of chairs which will be presented to Garry Kasparov, the winner of *The Times* World Chess Championship. A chess enthusiast, Mr Varah began by studying the behaviour of the players during matches. "When they are sitting down they lean forward on their elbows — there's no lounging back in the seats," he says. That suggested a chair without arms, yet it has been made as comfortable as possible. The gentle curve of the back and the angle of the seat derive from careful measurements of the body in a seated posture.

Practical points aside, the most difficult task for Mr Varah was to create a design that would both embody a chess theme without cliché and be the record of a unique event. There are no inscriptions, which would have been the obvious solution. Instead, the design is based on a chessboard, rotated through 45 degrees and reproduced as an open lattice to form the chair back. This is gently curved — a formidable challenge for the cabinet-maker, as every joint is set at a different angle.

The resulting lightness of line dictated the appearance of the rest of the chair, deliberately kept simple to contrast with the complexity of the back. There is a visual joke in the pawns which form finials on the back's uprights — they sit on wedges, a reference to their tactical value in driving a wedge into the opposing pieces.

The final touch, which transforms the chairs into a trophy, is the inclusion of specially carved chess pieces in the backs. They represent

**Michael Hall meets a furniture maker with an unusual chess challenge**



Solid cherry chair with art nouveau influence commissioned by a client last year

the appearance of the board at the end of the first match in the championship, won by Kasparov after Nigel Short ran out of time. The black pieces have been mounted on one chair, made of Indian rosewood with a seat of black burr walnut, and the white on the other, which is English holly with a bird's-eye maple seat. Only when the chairs are put back-to-back can the layout of the whole board be seen.

Mr Varah is now busy with the design of a second, similar pair of chairs, also on a chess theme, which is to be the prize in *The Times* readers' competition (see right).

The combination of playfulness and exacting standards of craftsmanship which these chairs embody is appropriate for a game of high seriousness such as chess. It is also a characteristic of Mr Varah's work. He delights in games: some of his pieces are presented to clients with a challenge to find the secret compartment within a year (they often lose). Fun is not perhaps the first characteristic which comes to mind in a survey of modern British furniture design, dominated — when it has not been in thrall to historic models — by an often dour arts-and-crafts functionalism. Mr Varah's idyllic rural workshop, housed in converted

barns next to his 17th-century half-timbered Warwickshire home, looks just the sort of place to turn out lumpy oak settles or respectful imitations of Queen Anne tallboys and Sheraton sideboards. But, despite his respect for tradition, he has never copied.

Clients often want a piece that will sit happily with 18th-century furniture — but I just ask myself what a 1990s designer living in the 1790s would have come up with.

This combination of traditional cabinet-making skills and contemporary inspiration is evident in the spacious workshop which Mr Varah shares with his five assistants. In one room, for instance, are the traditional stacks of exotic veneers, whereas another houses rainbow-hued, pressure-dyed aspen wood from Italy.

He has been experimenting lately with printing photographic images on to wood, a pictorialism that gives Mr Varah particular pleasure. He was recently inspired by advertising hoardings to create a child's chair in which the back is made of triangular poles which can be rotated to create three images — a happy, sad or thoughtful face, according to its owner's mood.

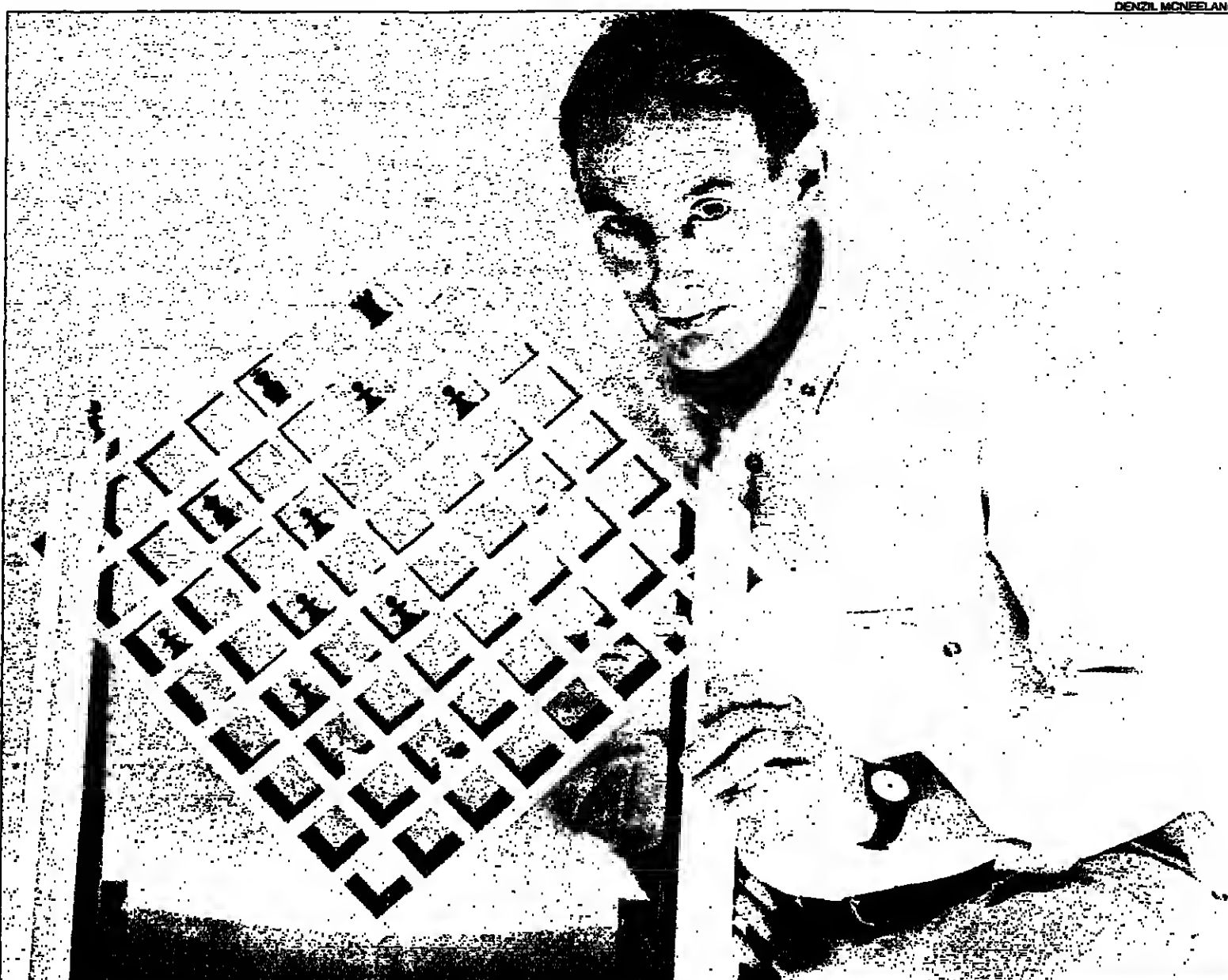
Such inventiveness makes it hard to characterise Mr Varah's work — but then, as he says, his versatility is prompted by the demands of his clients. "Most people are afraid of commissioning furniture because they think it must be ridiculously expensive, or they will have to accept whatever the designer chooses to give them."

He offers the advantages that stem from both designing and making his own pieces. That puts him in a minority: many well-known designers have never welded a plane in their lives, and the exaggerated British respect for "craftsmanship" means there are far too many furniture makers with good technical skills but no imaginative flair.

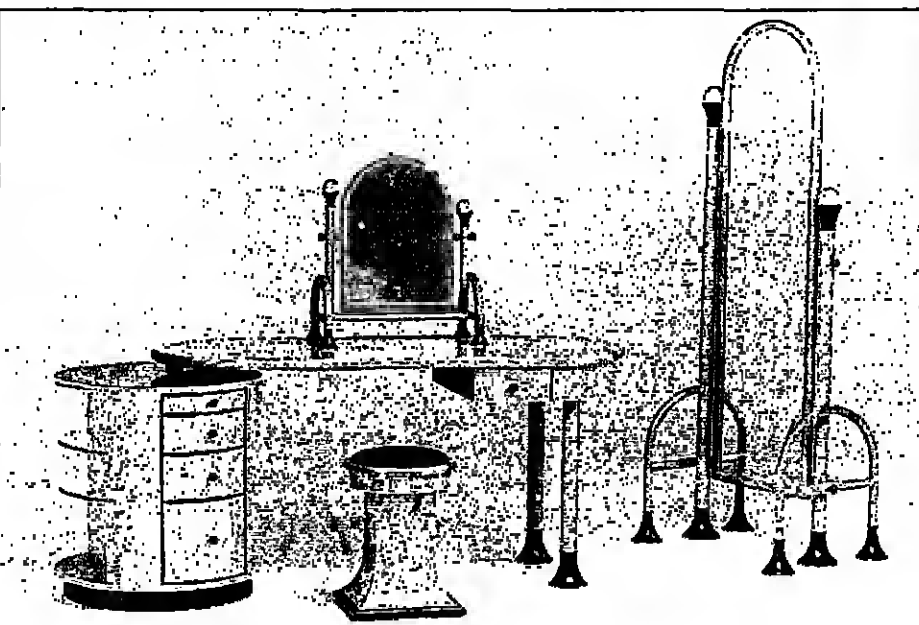
For anybody wanting a wardrobe or dining table that is out of the ordinary, it must be comforting to work with someone who derives such pleasure from realising their dreams.

"A client recently wrote to me to say that the first thing he did every morning was go down to the dining room to look at the table I had made for him — he just couldn't believe that something he had imagined now really existed."

● The author is visual arts editor of *Country Life* magazine. To contact Andrew Varah, telephone 0788 833000.



Andrew Varah with his chess chairs showing the chessboard effect and playing pieces



Andrew Varah's dressing-table set showing art deco influence. Made in holly, rosewood, satinwood and cherry, with a deep blue silk stool cover, it was designed in 1990 for the British Interiors design exhibition

## THE TIMES £3,000 COMPETITION

### Win these chess chairs

READERS are offered the chance to win a superb pair of chess chairs designed by Andrew Varah exclusively for *The Times*, and worth £3,000. One chair is black, the other white.

The frame of the black chair is in wenge wood, the seat and back in veneered Rio Rosewood. On the back, a square of oak and walnut marquetry creates a chessboard effect, with the playing pieces at the final positions of the winning championship game between Kasparov and Short. The white chess pieces are in maple, the black in black ash. The white chair, with matching chessboard, has a light oak frame. The seat and back are veneered in bird's eye maple.

● To win these superb chairs, answer these three questions:

- 1 Which country introduced veneering and marquetry?
- 2 Chair legs with carved ball and claw feet were introduced in which period of history?
- 3 What was the common name for chairs made at the end of the 17th century with horizontal slats across the back?

● Send your answers with your name and address on a postcard to: *The Times Chess Chairs Competition*, Promotions Department, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN, to arrive no later than November 10, 1994. The first correct answer to be drawn after the closing date will win. *Times* competition rules apply.

## THE TIMES AND THE HOUSE OF KRUG INVITE YOU TO A CHAMPAGNE DINNER



### Celebrate with a gourmet night out

Here's your chance to enjoy a superb evening of dining and wine in good company. *The Times* is celebrating the House of Krug's 150th anniversary by producing its world-famous champagnes with a gourmet dinner at the impressive Alderley Edge Hotel in Cheshire, one of the finest country house hotels in Britain. And you are invited to join us there.

Guests at this special, black-tie evening on Thursday, November 18, will be greeted at the hotel with a friendly reception at which Krug Grande Cuvée and Krug Vintage 1982 will be served.

Then follows a memorable five-course dinner, prepared by the hotel's renowned chef, Brian Joy. His carefully created menu includes selected fish delivered that day from the Fleetwood market, succulent loin of Brecon lamb, the pick of the fresh vegetables, herbs grown in the hotel gardens, a delicious dessert, and a selection of breads, cakes and pastries baked in the hotel's ovens. Accompanying the meal will be three top-of-the-range champagnes — Krug Grande Cuvée, Krug Vintage 1982.

The surroundings for the gourmet dinner are equally magnificent. Set in a picturesque Cheshire landscape, Alderley House Hotel is of nearly the same age as the House of Krug. It was built in the 1800s as the private home of one of Manchester's wealthy cotton barons. The sandstone building has been lovingly refurbished and is now recognised as among the finest in Britain.

If you enjoy fine cuisine and the best of champagnes — and perhaps have another reason to celebrate — please complete the coupon and return it to us as soon as possible. Invitations are necessarily limited.

## THE TIMES

### KRUG GOURMET DINNER

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Please post coupon and remittance to:

Jo Langran, *The Times* Krug Gourmet Dinner,

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN

Invitations are subject to availability

## Shopping as an art form

J. Paul Getty's collection has inspired the Royal Academy shop



"Leonardo da Vinci" watch (£49.95) and giftwrap (£80p)



Bone china mugs (£9.95 each) designed by Simon Wildsmith

THE history of art is the history of revivals, according to Samuel Butler. So it should surprise no-one to find a contemporary boost for Classicism in the items on sale in the shop at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

Choosing products as suitable mementoes for exhibition visitors or early Christmas shoppers means treading a fine line between commerce and art, according to Josephine Lundberg, managing director of Royal Academy Enterprises. "We try to remain as true as possible to the spirit of the exhibition in the designs we've selected," she explains. "But it hasn't been easy because the drawings are so refined."

Chosen to tie in with the current exhibition "Great Master Drawings from the J. Paul Getty Museum", the items include a silk twill scarf commissioned by the shop from textile designer Rachel Copeland. This exclusive design, in which elements from four drawings in the exhibition are overlaid on a parchment background, is available only during the run of the exhibition (price £49.95).

The same is true of two delicate bone-china mugs designed by the artist, Simon Wildsmith (£9.95 each).

One has a detail of an image by Antoine Watteau, the other a bacchanalian theme inspired by Giulio Romano.

To encourage amateur artists, a stylish wooden box of coloured and graphite drawing pencils, plus eraser, sharpener and wooden roller, costs £14.95, while natural wood pencils with integral erasers cost 60p each.

It is worth stocking up on art postcards (40p) and greetings cards (£1) as well as giftwrap (80p) and tags (40p). There are two wrapping paper designs: cherubs and swags against a cream/blue background and an astrological design on a parchment background.

THE framed prints of reproduction drawings by Rubens, Rembrandt and Watteau sell for between £49.95 and £120, while the unframed prints of Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, Ingres, Van Gogh and William Blake are priced at £7.50.

Just for fun, there is also a Branco watch (£49.95), whose numeral-free face depicts Leonardo da Vinci's linear *Corpo Umano* drawing. It is guaranteed for a year and has a brown leather strap and gold-plated case.

● "Great Master Drawings from the J. Paul Getty Museum" is at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1N 0DS (071-439 7438) until January 23. *Times* readers are offered a 10 per cent discount on all Getty merchandise on presentation of the voucher in today's newspaper (see page 15).



Yearning for the healthy country life, James Hepburn investigates a brand new lakeside development

# New slant on an old dream



The glazed health and leisure centre, flanked by dazzling white clapboard houses, dominates the lake-front at the Watermark Club, near Cirencester, once a gravel pit

It is Saturday morning at 8 o'clock. The children are downstairs. They are restless. You can sense this, although there is no sound. The silence means they have found the rat poison/hanged the cat/hanged each other/phone the speaking clock in Canberra/all of the above. You open the curtains. The sun is shining. The tall city buildings melt into the haze on the horizon. Somewhere out there, you think, there must be something better.

Most city people dream of escape to the country. If work ties us to the smoke, we imagine a rose-girdled weekend cottage. I went to Gloucestershire - South Cerney, near Cirencester, to be precise - to look at the modern alternative.

You may have seen the advertisements for the Watermark Club in the colour supplements. Under the heading "Which is the smarter move?" are two photographs: one of a cottage in Cotswold stone, looking charming but rather dowdy against an overcast sky; the other of a pair of dazzling white clapboard houses, with balconies and sun-decks looking down on a speedboat moored on the bank of a lake, set against a cobalt, cloudless horizon. Beneath each property is a list of features. The cottage's list is short. The clapboard list runs almost off the page. There is free golf on two courses, a lake, a gymnasium and a lease that, if taken out in the year of the Norman Conquest, would still

have 72 years to run. The cottage costs £120,000; the houses £72,000. There are still saints with hearts so pure they will pay cash for stone-cladding to a man in a kipper tie. For most of us, though, too many estate agents' details have soured our faith in advertisements. The first surprise on arriving at the Watermark Club was that it wasn't a time-share offer. The second was that the place seemed to be more or less everything it claimed.

The one thing I would question is that the Watermark has an "idyllic Cotswold setting". The develop-

ment is in the Cotswold Water Park, a stretch of lakes formed by gravel extraction. The land is flat and uninspiring. Perhaps eventually, when all the country's food grows on an allotment in Bexleyheath, and the Archers have England's only working farm, all our countryside will be like this. The houses are modelled on the clapboard homes that line the New England coast in America. When the development is complete, there will be 76 houses, facing south across 200 yards of lake.

Downstairs there is a fitted

kitchen, shower-room and a large living-room, looking out through double French windows on to the sun-deck. Upstairs are a bathroom and three bedrooms. Each house has central heating and carpets. Most houses are semi-detached, some terraced. The lease specifies that residents cannot bother their neighbours. In theory, you could come here to lock yourself away from the world, but that's not the Watermark idea. Jeremy Paxton, the chief executive, sees ownership as membership of a club.

The lake-front is dominated by a health and leisure centre. Upstairs is a gymnasium lined with bizarre instruments of torture. Downstairs is a restaurant and bar where owners read the papers on cane chairs and revel on party nights to Ricky Calypso's Rock and Rhythm

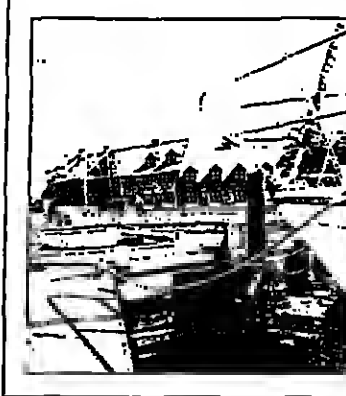
Revue. If you want it to be the place can be an amalgam of health farm, package holiday and cabin in the woods. Everything is accessible. For £4 a tow you can water-ski off your doorstep. In ten minutes you can be golfing, fishing, riding, wind-surfing, sailing. Living is healthy and easy. If there was coon, it would be high.

So where is the catch? There is a yearly £1,000 ground rent fixed to inflation and a £750 service charge. For this you get the sport, security and rubbish collection. Site management is designed to ensure maintenance and viability.

According to Watermark, re-sale has not been a problem with its other properties. In Cambridgeshire, built in the late 1980s, every property re-sold has brought a profit of at least 20 per cent. Watermark likes to keep control of re-sale. The company takes 2.5 per cent on all sales.

The one thing that you cannot do with these houses is to make them your main home: occupancy is based on the house being a second home. This kills my dream to sell up in the smoke and become a fitter, bender and happier person. Saturday morning still finds me gazing at those tall city buildings thinking that somewhere out there, there must be something better.

For details of holiday homes at South Cerney telephone Watermark Leisure on 0666 510777.



**At Island Harbour, on the east bank of the river Medina, a mile and a half upstream from Cowes on the Isle of Wight, you can buy a freehold, two-bedroom holiday cottage with a 33ft marina berth at the bottom of the garden, for £91,750. Four-bedroom can be had for as little as £98,750.**

Each house is brick-built, with a large sitting-room, cloakroom/utility-room (with washer/dryer), oak fitted kitchen (with oven, hob, cooker hood and waste-

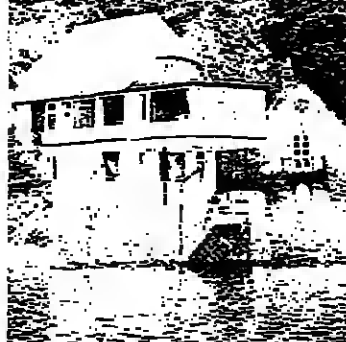
disposal unit), en suite bathroom and shower-room. All come with a rear garden, waterfront patio and car-parking space. Planning permission has been granted for these houses to be used only as holiday homes, with up to 42 weeks' occupancy a year. Ownership or use of a boat, which is normally to be kept within the marina, is obligatory for house owners, but there are no stipulations as to dates of occupancy or size of the boat.

Watermark Properties 081-542 9999.

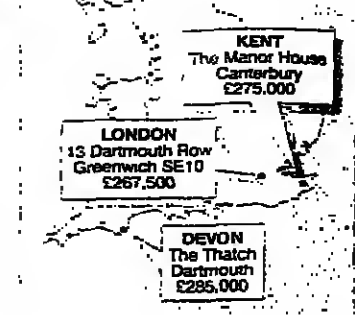
London 13 Dartmouth Row, Greenwich. SE10. Victorian family house with many period features. A small rear courtyard and a lawned front garden. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, two reception rooms. Kitchen, cloakroom, cellar. Garage. About £267,500 (John D. Wood, 071-493 4106).



**FOR SALE**  
**AROUND**  
**£275,000**



Devon: The Thatch, South Town, Dartmouth. Thatched boathouse with annexe. Two bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, "quarter deck" sitting room and kitchen with 180-degree views over the harbour and estuary. Annexe with bedroom, living-room and kitchen. Terraced gardens and sea-water swimming-pool. About £285,000 (Fulford, 0803 832223).



Kent: The Manor House, Hernhill, Canterbury. Grade II listed 15th-century hall house with 18th-century castellated addition and luxury converted coach house in half an acre of walled gardens. Four bedrooms, three bathrooms, drawing-room with two open fireplaces and exposed beams, library, dining-room, kitchen, utility room and cloakroom. Secondary house with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, 34ft living-room and kitchen, double garage. About £275,000 (Cluttons, 0227 457441).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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### OXFORDSHIRE



Kriss Akabusi and the dreams that made him a winner: Ruth Gledhill reports on an unusual church service

## Crossing the hurdle



THE athlete Kriss Akabusi, looking racy in a light green shirt and brown trousers, warned us that the last time he spoke in public a member of the audience threw a missile at him because he went on for so long. "I like to talk," he explained, grinning. We were in the unlikely setting of the Novotel Southampton, a modern hotel, where the Waterfront Church was founded last year to counter a conviction that church was "boring, irrelevant and hostile", and to confront attempts to debunk historical Christianity.

The ambience was disturbingly like that of a business conference, complete with questionnaires on the chairs and plastic pens with which to fill them out. We were invited to write down the question we would most like to ask a creator-God, assuming He existed and we were granted five minutes in His presence.

Earlier, I had asked Akabusi what question he was asked most often. The surprising answer was: "Did you enjoy the Big Breakfast?" — Channel 4's weekday morning show, on which he was a guest presenter this summer.

At the Novotel church every chair was taken in the carpeted conference room. There were large numbers of teenagers in baggy sweatshirts, jeans and Doc Martens. A few adults were squeezed between them. Akabusi's wife Monika and his daughters, Ashanti, aged nine, and Shakira, six, sat in the front row.

The service opened with a song, "Living Hope", from Pete Dinklage and Sharon Peary, who sang and strummed guitars. Then the leader, Trevor Waldo, explained the beginnings of the church — formed "with the specific aim that it would be a church for people who did not want to go to church", based on the idea of "putting Jesus in the context of the 1990s".

After watching a morality play, we were introduced to the main performance, from Akabusi, aged 34, who has retired from athletics and taken up Bible studies, public speaking and addressing schoolchildren. Working through the charity Christians in Sport, he preaches at different churches and receives enough invitations to keep him busy.

"Do you have dreams?" he asked us. "I have had many, and sometimes the dreams have come true. For me, one of the biggest dreams in my life was that I would go to the



Akabusi gets off the mark for his "sermon" at the Waterfront service held in a hotel

Olympic Games, stand on the awards rostrum and then go "Yaaaaah!" He yelled this so loud that we jumped.

He then described (using hands and feet) leaving the starting block in the final of the Barcelona Olympic 400-metre hurdles in 1992: "A big brown shape comes past me. This is not what I call a dream; this is a nightmare." The race was won by the American Kevin Young, although Akabusi set a new British record. "There I was in third place and yet still the fastest man in British history. There I was a failure. I had not made it. I was not the best."

Then he grinned, and pulled

his bronze medal from his pocket, and the congregation cheered. He said he had realised, on the rostrum, that he had nevertheless done his best. "Now when I look at this baby in my pocket, I realise I am a champion," he said.

He described growing up in poverty — dreaming of a "lovely car, lovely family, nice threads". When he obtained his dream car, a Mercedes, he wanted a bigger, better one. The turning point came after the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1986, while reading a *Good News Bible* in his hotel room. "There was a guy in there. Obviously I had used his

name before, but I never realised he actually lived. I thought he was like the tooth fairy and Father Christmas."

The following spring, while training in California, he begged Jesus to "let me know if you are really who you say you are". Akabusi grinned again and said: "That was the biggest or best mistake I ever made. That night I went to bed and I had what I call a vision." He heard a verse from Matthew's gospel. "I shouted 'Jesus!' Then I looked around because it is not cool to shout Jesus in the middle of the night. I got out my Filofax and wrote it down. In the morning there it was, my baptism by



The Olympic hurdler relaxes with young churchgoers

The Waterfront Church, Novotel, 1 West Quay Road, Southampton SO1 0RA (0703 67277).

PASTOR: The Rev Trevor Waldo.

SERMON: The congregation was transfixed by an eloquent talk from the athlete Kriss Akabusi, whose winning ingredients were the willingness to laugh at himself and an astonishing turn of speed as he raced through his complex and gripping life story.\*\*\*

ARCHITECTURE: Postmodernist style, which suited a postmodernist church in a hotel.\*\*\*

LITURGY: A "play" in which a marital tragedy was enacted on stage. The moral message seemed to be that we should examine the beams in our own eyes before attacking the mote in our partners'.\*\*\*

MUSIC: Three Christian "numbers" from a duet, Peter Emberley and Sharon Peary. The congregation did not join in. The effect was sugary.\*\*\*

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee and a host of counsellors and helpers ready to answer any question about God, Christianity and Kriss Akabusi.\*\*\*

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Exhilarating in a way that was also slightly exhausting.\*\*\*

\* stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

the Holy Spirit at 0300 hours. So I went down to the track. There they all were, Roger Black, Daley Thompson, the guys. I said: 'Guys, guys, I met Jesus last night.' They said: 'Are you crazy?'

Christianity has worked for Akabusi. He now has the bigger Mercedes, with the number plate ECC 724, his favourite chapter and verse from Ecclesiastes. At the end

of his sermon, he asked those of us who considered ourselves Christian to stand up — the kind of request that normally inspires me to run for the nearest door. About a dozen had the courage to remain seated, but I for once was unable to withstand the challenge, when confronted with such a muscular Christianity.

● Sunday service 8-9pm.



### What the papers said: Derwent May's bookbuyers' guide

5.5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews in national broadsheet newspapers.

4.5 The lady's not for cutting. Never in the field of human reviewing has so much been written by so many so quickly. Lady Thatcher's memoirs, *The Downing Street Years* (HarperCollins £25), were handed out to reviewers on Sunday last week. By the following morning there were already two long, indignant reviews to read: in *The Daily Telegraph* Philip Ziegler was pronouncing the book "cantankerous and dogmatic", while Hugo Young in *The Guardian* was finding it "of onerous length... sometimes undurably self-serving" and "as an account of the Thatcher years, a failure".

The Times gave Lord Blake till Thursday to produce his review: he wrote more calmly, and judged the book to be far more balanced than first reports had suggested. She was "stating her case" — and the results were "highly readable". In *The Evening Standard* the next day Nigel Lawson returned to the attack, but in feline style: his praise of her as a prime minister only highlighted his pained criticism of the memoirs. "Margaret Thatcher sets standards of self-regard hitherto unknown," he wrote slyly. "History will judge her more kindly than historians will this book." On Saturday morning came the longest review of all, by Geoffrey Howe in *The Financial Times*. Not surprisingly, he thought the memoirs were "scarred by an almost obsessive desire to justify her last three years in power", years that were themselves

"marred by decisive and fatal errors of judgment". He set the record straight from his point of view. In *The Independent* that morning Andrew Marr seemed impressed by the book somewhat against his will.

The Sunday papers went off in more maverick ways. Roy Jenkins in *The Observer* proved by mathematics that the early reviewers could not have read the whole book, and blamed the author's collaborators for the book's "bland prose". In *The Independent* on Sunday Robert Harris simply dismissed it as "a nasty piece of work". In *The Sunday Times*, Simon Jenkins took the book as "a densely reasoned defence of Thatcherism" and argued with it closely on those terms. But he warned that it was a book for Thatcher addicts, not fans — "clothes, food, friends, laughter, holidays, tears are seldom part of it". Meanwhile, in *The Sunday Telegraph*, Alan Clark was showing his loyalty. The book was "incomplete" and "polluted by the attention of hacks" — but "the author's achievements are so drastic that her story can carry these flaws". The figure below is a record for this column.

Col cms: 923

3.5 The other PM: "Revenge! Spit! Fury!" wrote Val Hennessy in *The Daily Mail*. No, not Thatcher again, but Penelope Mortimer's *About Time Too: 1940-1978* (Weidenfeld £16.99), in which her former husband John Mortimer is "lacerated by her scalpel-sharp pen". Hennessy felt the portraits of other people in the book were "skimped". But in *The Daily Telegraph* Hilary Spurling praised its "unsparing emotional clarity... wit, energy and devastating accuracy".

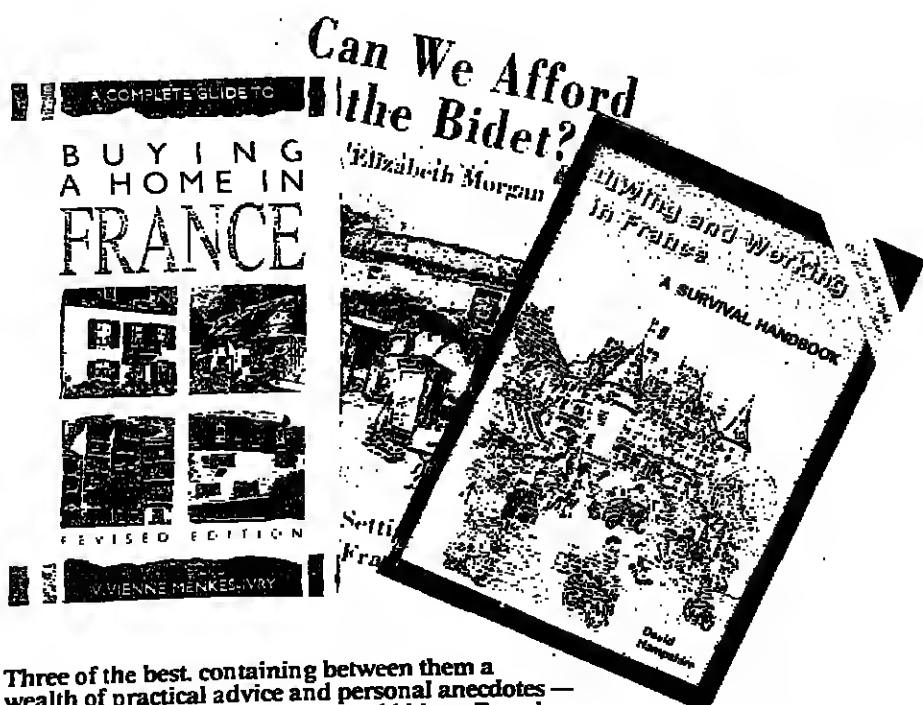
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## Homework for the French house-buyers

Cheryl Taylor raids the bookshelves for guidance on buying in France

● **A Complete Guide to Buying a Home in France** (revised edition) by Vivienne Menkes-Ivry, published by Simon & Schuster (paperback, £6.99). This book is a must. In its second edition, it provides a mine of useful, up-to-date information. Well researched and packed with useful tips, it is also a readable guide to the pleasures and pitfalls of life in France. It offers advice on all aspects of property purchase and restoration from what, where and how to buy (with a guide to the regions) to tackling the French legal system, finding tradesmen, paying bills, buying furniture, letting and selling.

● **Can We Afford The Bidet? A Guide to Setting Up House in France** by Elizabeth Morgan, Lennard Publishing (hardback, £14.95). Elizabeth Morgan, a veteran of buying, restoring and sell-



Three of the best, containing between them a wealth of practical advice and personal anecdotes — such as how many times you should kiss a Frenchman

ing old houses in France, passes on her invaluable experience, plus a wealth of practical information and an amusing account of the author's times spent in France. The first chapter deals with the basics, such as gas, electricity, water, telephone, in-

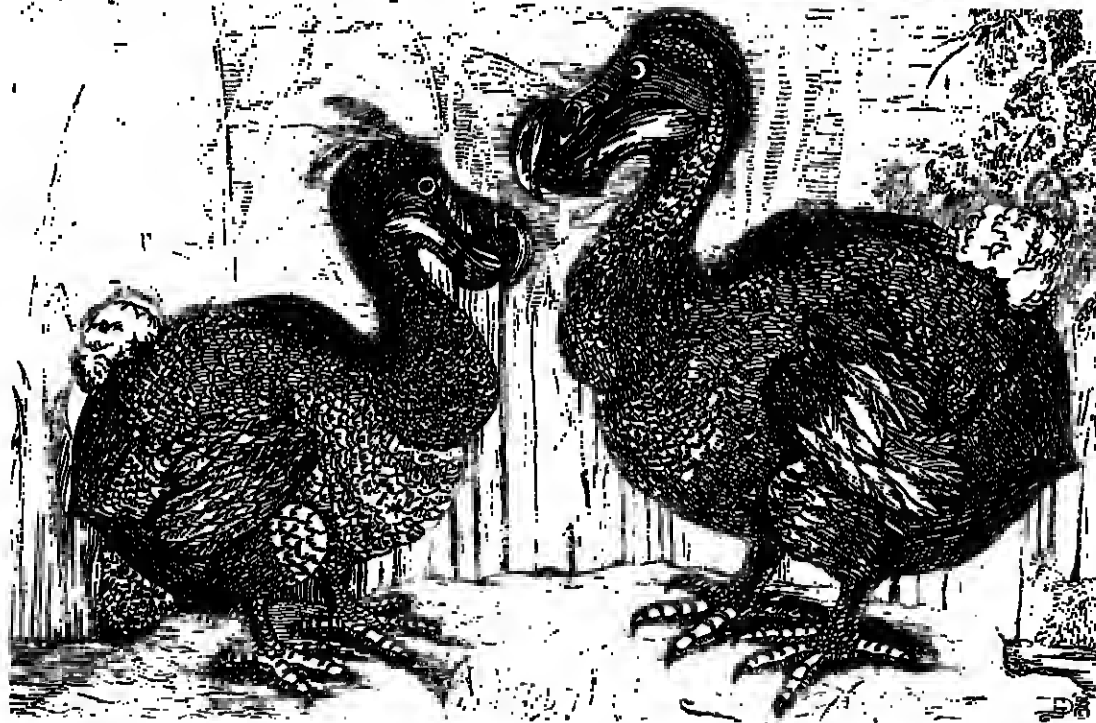
surance, rates and taxes. Others cover building work, buying furniture (including the French second-hand scene), banks, health care, letting your French home and the law. It offers a few short cuts and several cautionary tales, conveyed with humour.

● **Living and working in France — A Survival Handbook** by David Hampshire, published by Survival Books (paperback £10.95).

A comprehensive guide to all things French, written in a highly readable and amusing style, for anyone planning to live, work or retire in France. It covers all aspects, with advice about French conveyancing, how to obtain a residents' permit, find a job and get the best education for your children. There is also useful information about health care, public transport, motoring, insurance, how to find the best shopping bargains — and how many times you should kiss a Frenchman.

CHERYL TAYLOR

## They didn't join Dateline



### Maybe that's why they're extinct

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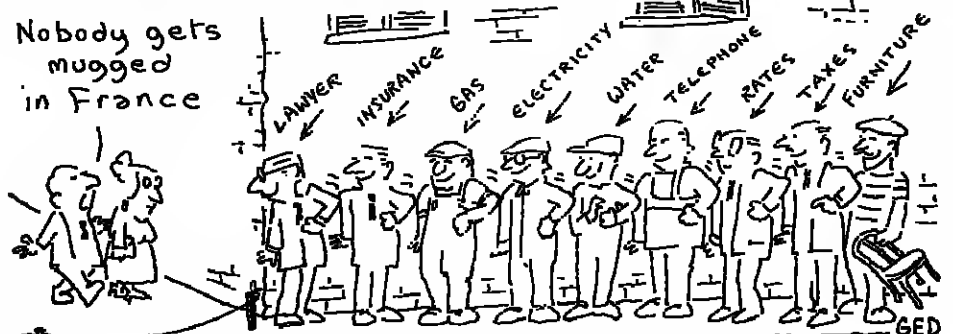
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# Danced to any good books lately?

Late night discos, a café, a youthful membership and music at ear-piercing volume hardly constitute a typical, traditional library. But Yoker Youth Library in Glasgow — which claims to be the only library for teenagers in Britain — is different. No reprimands here for raised voices. Far from it. "We want young people to relax in here and learn to love books," says librarian Anne Louise McGough. "Young people frequently disappear from a library from the age of 12. After that, it is difficult to get them back. We hope to keep them here."

Grabbing your reader, from birth to OAP status, is a message which is about to reverberate throughout the country during National Library Week which starts on Monday, masterminded by the Library Association. Rural and urban branches will be playing their trade in as innovative a manner as possible. Indeed, Yoker Youth Library, which opened three years ago in two converted school-rooms on the outskirts of the city, offers a world of words, music and social life that many teenagers would give their eyeteeth for. On Thursday, there is a fancy-dress disco, while next Saturday is a 1970s open day with television programmes and stuff from the era and, of course, staff dressed up in contemporary gear.

Unlike many libraries, Yoker stays open late — until 8.30pm twice a week and to nearly midnight when a disco is in full flight, although these generally take place only in school holidays. Nor are there fines. "Instead, we send out overdue notices and then collectors visit individual homes," says Ms McGough. "We have a very high return rate as a result."

Not only has the scheme pulled in readers — Yoker claims a membership of 2,000 — but it also provides a social fall-back. "We encourage people to talk to us. We hear about all kinds of social problems. Some of us have had youth training, but all of us are happy to provide a listening ear," says Ms McGough.

James Derrick, 14, is a regular. Despite the noise, he claims to get "peace and quiet here, which I don't have at home after school and stay until it closes. All libraries

From fancy-dress discos to authors in bed, libraries will try anything to woo young readers, says

Jane Bidder



Karaoke capers at the Yoker Youth Library

should be like this," James thinks he reads more now than he used to, although traditionalists might question the content of his reading. His favourite fodder is the graphic novel, a cross between a comic and a book — for example, *Treasure Island* illustrated with cartoon characters and speech bubbles. Still, if it makes them interested in reading, it cannot be bad...

The same might be said for seeing Allan Ahlberg in bed, Well,

it makes a bedtime story with a difference, doesn't it? At least, that is the idea at Birmingham public library, where on Tuesday, Mr Ahlberg and other brave novelists will take turns to lie on a bed, in the middle of the library, to read aloud. The readings continue into the night, as long as everyone has enough stamina (and hot chocolate) to keep going.

Reading aloud to the children could become a dying art unless parents pull up their socks. Warwick Library will be passing on some tips on Thursday from 6.30 to 7.30pm with "Storytelling by candlelight" the whole family, when professional reader Guy Hutchins will be recounting fairytales and more. "We hope the candlelight will create a good atmosphere," says librarian Pat Dunlop. She also hopes it might encourage more parents to pick up a book when the children have gone to bed, instead of merely collapsing in bed instead.

Reading, of course, should be fun, which is why librarians at Stockton library in Cleveland will be dressed up in storytime costumes (Red Riding Hood, etc) to draw in customers all week.

Not to be outdone, Ealing library in west London is hosting an "adventure game" for six to 11-year-olds. "Children are given a passport which is stamped every time they finish a book," says Miranda McKearney, press officer for National Library Week. "It provides an incentive to keep going."

Some children cannot stop. Six-year-old Laura Yates, from Cottingham in North Humberside, likes nothing better than reading in bed. On a recent visit to the library, she picked up a National Library Week competition form, inviting young readers to write a review of any book they fancied. Laura chose *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson. "I like it because the owl eats things first and then asks what it was," says Laura. "It's also good for children who are scared at night."

To her delight, Laura has been shortlisted as a prize winner. "Even if she doesn't win, it's exciting to have got so far," says her mother Paula, who is a Nevill Shute fan, "there's nothing like a good book."



Tie-dyeing at Glasgow's Yoker Youth Library, which claims to be the only library for teenagers in Britain



Guy Fawkes is coming

## Children's events

London: Speak to me, No. 11's not another demanding child but the title of an exhibition at the Science Museum, explaining how technology helps those with speaking difficulties. Hands-on activities include a touch-screen questionnaire and sign language. Exhibition Road, London. SW7 2DD (071-48 8023). Today, 10am-6pm, tomorrow, 11am-6pm. £4, children £2.10.

Yorkshire: Join the Pumpkin Party, make a Halloween frieze/pumpkin lantern (bring your own pumpkin), show off your wares at the pumpkin lantern parade. East Riddlesden Hall, Bradford Road, Keighley, West Yorkshire (0535 607075). Tomorrow, 12-4.30pm. Free to National Trust members, others £2.80, children free.

Derbyshire: There must be something about transport at night. Tram-spotters (young and old) will be entranced by electric trams running in the darkness at the Starlight Special. The National Tramway Museum, Crich, Derbyshire (0773 852565). Tomorrow, 5-7pm. £4.20, children £2.

BONFIRE ROUND-UP  
Sussex: Brighton Lions Club's mammoth bonfire display. Arena events include juggling. Meet at the Withdean Stadium, Withdean Lane, Brighton, East Sussex (0273 430227). Friday Nov 5, from 5.30pm. £4, children under 12 £2.

Yorkshire: Grand bonfire and fireworks display, plus steam trains at night. Embay Steam Railway, Embay Station, Embay, North Yorkshire (0156 744727). Saturday Nov 6 from 5.30pm. £3, children £1.50.

Wales: Marvel at the biggest fireworks that can be legally used in this country. Meet at Ffril Point, Barry Island, South Wales. Saturday Nov 6, 7pm. Free (0446 735252).

JANE BIDDER

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# All the school's a stage

There is no shortage of talent and energy among youngsters in the 11 shows competing in the national music theatre awards final, says Heather Neill

Twenty-two witches from Worthing, two Harrovian angels, assorted Tartars from Rugby and Captain Cook will be among those arriving at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, on London's South Bank, on Monday for the finals of the Barclays Music Theatre Awards.

Chosen from more than 200 entries from schools and community youth groups all over the country, the 11 finalists will compete in two categories: junior (up to age 13) and senior (up to 19) for prizes worth £7,000 for performance and production. Bob Holness (of TV's *Blockbusters*) will be in charge of proceedings and the judging panel will include the composers Richard Stilgoe and Howard Blake, actress Denise Coffey and director Wendy Toye.

Barclays Bank became involved in this big undertaking, to encourage new music theatre talent, in 1987. Larry Westland, businessman and champion of young people's arts who is the prime mover behind the more venerable Schools Proms, approached Barclays looking for another Prom sponsor. Told that Barclays preferred to be sole funders, he invented this new festival on the spot.

Six years later, it is thoroughly established with Trevor Nunn, its patron, considering the 1993 entries

"more varied, adventurous and stimulating than ever". He regards the awards as "vital for the future development of the country's musical theatre".

Most of the competitors, however, will be thinking of the event as an adventure in its own right. Nevertheless, a few have already had a taste of the big time.

Seventeen-year-old Steven Kyrman provides the disfiguring makeup for the heroine of the play in which he also has a substantial part, *Sanctus*, performed by the Northern Theatre Company from Hull. Adept at inventing animatronics, he sent a remote-controlled head (Audrey, from *Little Shop of Horrors*) to Steven Spielberg. Eighteen months later a call came and Steven has now spent two weeks working on the film of *The Flintstones*.

*Sanctus* provides a different challenge. Its author, Thom Strid, described it as a "black comedy with lots of laughs", which sounds a tall order as it mixes mass religion on satellite TV with sexual obsession.

And at Rickmansworth Masonic Junior School in Hertfordshire many of the 43 eight- to 11-year-old performers are veterans of the West End production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This time they are involved in a



Pupils at Lawrence Sheriff School run through *Polo and the Khan*, an epic tale of Marco Polo's travels originally performed by people from 19 different schools

Victorian moral tale, *The Factory Children*. Joseph will be present too, though, performed by 50 six- to 13-year-olds from Bradford, members of Stage 84.

Among those competing with *The Factory Children* and *Sanctus* for the £250 Times Educational Supplement Award for Best Original Work will be *Polo and the Khan* performed by the Young East Warwickshire Theatre (YEWTH), based in Rugby. This epic tale of Marco Polo's travels — originally performed by representatives of 19 schools with a cast of more than 100 and an orchestra big enough to grace Drury Lane — is the brainchild of Rex Pogson, head of

Lawrence Sheriff School, Rugby, with music by Graham Westcott.

It has been difficult to reduce something of "Les Mis dimensions" to 15 minutes, but Pogson and Val Brodie, his music director, have tried to maintain the spirit of the original and the theme, building bridges. More than 40 of the original cast will be going to London.

Like all the other finalists, YEWTH have to revive a show performed and adjudicated some months ago. But nobody is complaining. In the school hall at Lawrence Sheriff two weeks before the trek to London, Rex Pogson and Val Brodie were shouting "smile" at

the ranks of singing Venetians, Tartars and peasants in tones that tipped up lips in a flash.

There are two other original shows among the under-13s. *Sea Saga II* from Ashfield Junior School in Worthing has 52 performers tackling a serious and locally contentious subject, the pollution of the environment, around Sellafeld, told "through the eyes of Sid the Hermit and the local mutants".

In Derbyshire, the entire school roll of 45 pupils at Ashbourne Pneu School undertakes a musical voyage. *All Aboard*, with Captain Cook — visiting Australia, Hawaii and both Poles. No one could

accuse the under-13s of lack of ambition. There are more conventional choices among the seniors: *My Fair Lady* from Rydens School, Walton-on-Thames; *The Boyfriend* from the Youth Drama Factory in Gloucester; and *Half a Sixpence* from Woking College, Surrey, which seems to have produced its own "Mr Showbusiness", Stewart Nicholls, 17, who plays Kippis, is also responsible for production, direction and choreography.

The Ramsgate Society at Harrow School offers 40 performers (including girls from the Krystal Arts Dance and Theatre School) in a new work, "a modern morality play" called *Ain't Life Good*. Tak-

ing its inspiration from the film *It's A Wonderful Life*, it raises philosophical questions about free will and divine (or rather angelic) intervention by chronicling a young man's moral decisions.

And the witches? JSS Ensemble in Worthing have designed a new piece of music drama, *Witch*, based on the witches' chorus from Verdi's *Macbeth*. Twenty-two of them will be teasing and tormenting the Thane. All in all, there should be plenty of magic, but practicalities are not forgotten. Rex Pogson's cast has been told to look out Eastern slippers and strappy sandals just in case the QEH stage is "unfit for human foot".

**THEATRE:** Pinter's elegant, courteous struggle for domination; and Fay Weldon's hard-hitting social satire on the uncaringness of the caring

## Hunters with words

Old Times  
Birmingham  
Repertory Theatre



Carol Royle as the wife Kate, blithely self-absorbed

COMING to this play again after many years, taking in the coolly elegant setting, the two rooms in the converted farmhouse, sitting room and bedroom, each furnished as sparsely as Pinter's stage-direction indicates. Listening again to the measured, cultivated language, spoken for the most part courteously, and with pauses in between, by a husband, a wife and the wife's friend about events 30 years ago that may or may not have occurred; absorbing the almost-familiar sights and sounds of this fascinating play stirred memories of a cult film released around the same time, perhaps a little earlier, where again what the characters recollect may not have occurred.

Pacing the endless corridors and ornate hotel salons in *Last Year at Marienbad* go another husband, wife and interloper. In the film, the

intruder is a man and not a girlfriend, but again a struggle for domination is courteously, elegantly fought, with words for weapons, and pauses in between. But where the cinema can relatively easily combine claustrophobia with suspense, this is not so simply achieved on the stage. Pinter does it with words, almost unaided by movement. Decley, Kate and Anna do move, pour brandy, open the cigarette box, circle the white sofas, but the sequence of moves at the end of the play has been

mysteriously forseen and described earlier. Kate, the wife, smiles, says little, or gives answers that call forth another question. Carol Royle's romantic silliness conveys the self-absorption that is indifferent to her effect upon others. No man is an island,

perhaps, but this woman is, entire unto herself. The battle raging over her may be to establish, without directly enquiring, and without directly disclosing, what influence Anna exerted over Kate when they were secretaries all those years ago. It may

be that Kate and Anna metaphorically express complementary aspects of a woman, the desired one and the one scheming to be desired. Deeley's anxiety is to discover to what degree he has been the hunter, what the hunted.

Bill Alexander's direction ably steers the cast towards the unsettling climaxes that are so unexpectedly arrived at. Having Kate kneel in front of her husband, to tell him she fell in love with him (note past tense) is an electric moment.

Most of the dialogue is spoken by Estelle Kohler, urgent, polite, steely, and Tim Pigott-Smith, coarsening his speech as he feels himself falling from favour; but the wife, the enigmatic female, is the focus of their conflict. "She lacks curiosity," says Deeley. "Perhaps she's happy," says Anna. Perhaps she is.

JEREMY KINGSTON

FAY Weldon takes a subject from the front pages of the media and boldly puts it on stage. *Mr Director* may be fictional, but it is rooted in the kind of hard facts which theatre normally leaves to television documentaries.

Fourteen-year-old Debbie claims that the adults in charge at the children's home from which she repeatedly absconds have sexually abused her. She is, moreover, being subjected to solitary confinement. The isolation unit in which she is incarcerated evokes the atrocities of "pin down" techniques, even if the computer-controlled padded cell is unconvincing.

Meanwhile, Stephen, an investigative journalist, is after the director, Manny. The home is plagued by the threat of cuts, even though the recession is apparently over. *Mr Director* is astoundingly up to the minute — astoundingly

## Home bitter home

Mr Director  
Orange Tree,  
Richmond

because Weldon actually wrote this play for the Orange Tree in 1978. Its topicality merits this second staging. Director Michael Elwyn works scenes with finesse and suggests the oppressive atmosphere of surveillance by using television monitors. The script has its flaws. Debbie's soliloquies can appear as the playwright's

device for filling in the audience on the protagonist's bleak life history. Naomi Buch, playing Marion (an unmerciful matron) perhaps fails to bring out Weldon's satire. At points, the writer's agenda — an expose of the uncaringness of carers — is obtrusive. However, the ethical complexity of the piece is cumulative and ultimately impressive.

There are many funny, emotionally electric scenes here. Keith Bartlett (Harry, a carer), lovable but slightly nasty, tries to seduce Marion while inspecting her varicose vein. Fiona Mollison (Manny's wife) is hilariously but potentially livid. Paul Shelley is perfect as Manny, cold under the cuddly exterior and disarming witless. And young Clare Woodgate, hyperventilating with fear but persistently ferocious, has great promise.

KATE BASSETT

**OPERA:** A potent *Salome* at Glasgow's Theatre Royal

## Bloodletting by moonlight

THE MOON is almost full in Glasgow, and blood congeals on the stage. *Salome* is in town. Scottish Opera is reviving Richard Strauss's work in the production first seen five years ago at Welsh National Opera. It is as potent as ever.

Rennie Wright, recreating André Engels's original concept, keeps alive the tackiness and voyeurism which co-exists with its psychological and emotional seriousness. Nick Riedl's dark, Oriental lattice-work of a design, with moonlight dappling on to dresscoat, newspaper and cigarette, reminds us that this is the far Arabia which stole away the wits of the 19th century, through the French Orientalists and symbolists to Oscar Wilde and on to Strauss.

Physical movement is restrained, weighed down by the dull ache of decadence: the ear, undistracted, is cunningly

drawn to the movement of the score in all its minute characterisation, its tense trilling and its multiple harmonics. This is the third opera to be conducted by Richard Armstrong in his opening season as music director, and its vibrant musical life confirms the wisdom of the appointment.

The orchestral might is important, as the cast is good but not outstanding. *Salome* is played by Penelope Chalmers, making her house debut as an impetuous redhead, as volatile as she is spoilt. Her voice has been a Valkyrie in her time, if not the light, silvery timbre Strauss wanted for this moon-child.

Both she and Jokanaan are locked inside their own respective visions. *Salome* fails even to notice the moment of the self-inflicted death of



Chalmers: spoilt Salome

Narraboth: Jokanaan appears to see nothing physical at all. Moving with the lumbering intensity of one who could be physically blind, James John-

son's stage presence is as powerful as his voice. And there is something in him, too, that could exist in Vikram Seth's San Francisco: was he really chewing gum during the curtain call?

Richard Coxon's hapless Narraboth makes a vivid mark; but the most complete performances come from the Herod of Neil Jenkins, and the Herodias of Elizabeth Vaughan. Jenkins bends overture, every phrase, through seemingly infinite shades of bluster, insecurity and insinuation. This man believes in miracles, too. Herodias, though, believes nothing; and the stubborn and vengeful nihilism conveyed by Vaughan (at present also a formidable Kabanicha in the company's *Katya*) has a magnificence all its own.

HILARY FINCH

## The cold wind of Henze's suffering

CLASSICAL  
RECORDS

counterpoint from what seems at first innocuous abstraction to a frightening ruthlessness. Then, the slow movement, dark and despairing, introduces the autumnal mist nevertheless hangs in the air, at once beautiful, bleak and sad, as befits the text of the Hölderlin poem of which this movement is an instrumental setting: "The walls stand/speechless and cold, in the wind/the flags are jangling".

The disc also includes the

these allusions become more blatant. A richly, darkly scored A minor chord signifies, as so often in Henze's music, a concentration of tragic emotion. Stunningly beautiful orchestral textures and distanced brass fanfares add to the Mahlerian flavour. A late autumnal mist nevertheless hangs in the air, at once beautiful, bleak and sad, as befits the text of the Hölderlin poem of which this movement is an instrumental setting: "The walls stand/speechless and cold, in the wind/the flags are jangling".

substantial *Barcarola* per grande orchestra, "water music", composed in 1979 in the form of a dramatic overture-cum-variation. The CBSO's full-blooded performances of both works are just as thrilling and moving on disc — if you and your neighbours are prepared for the wide dynamic range — as in the concert hall.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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# Putting in some 'face time' with a crashing boar

If you were in my position, you too would agree that the outlook is a black one. This is not depressive talk, but a fact. From the kitchen I can see across the yard to our pigsties.

In one is the vastly pregnant Phoebe, a black sow, who is cunning enough to stand on tip-toes on the trough and poke her black snout over the wall. I think militarily call it over-the-horizon radar: her saucer-sized snout, which I detect twitching from here, is as sensitive as anything in Jane's military compendia. I only have to think about peeling a potato and, if the wind is in the right direction, cries of anticipation rend the air.

"Feelings, feelings!" she pleads. But it is in the other sty that our problem lies. We have bought a Large Black boar. Actually, he is a Very Small Black boar: for he is a mere three months old. But he will flourish into a strapping lad by next

spring and then I can launch him on his career as the local gigolo, and by the time he has reached full roud status, he will have a massive quality that would shock even the Garrick dining-room.

This is the root of the problem. A boar can be a pretty frightening thing anyway, and tales of serious accidents are legion: it is therefore essential that by the time the hormones start to pump through him he is so easily handled that I would not hesitate to take him for a walk through town.

We have done it with all our other pigs and it has paid off handsomely. Phoebe will follow any bucket, even to the ends of the earth, and I would have no hesitation about taking Alice to a palace



garden party, providing swill was on the menu. But our baby black boar is going to take a little more taming.

For a start, he has come up from deepest Devon and hardly knows these East Anglian ways. The food is funny, too. He has been used to processed pig nuts and now has to face the barley-based slop which we concoct. It is like being taken off cream crackers and put on to soup. I am pleased to say that he is beginning to get the hang of it.

That leaves the question of his tameness, and I fear the only solution is going to be a time-consuming one. We had a friend down from London recently who works in an office which no doubt has its complement of porky bores.



It has no windows, conditioned air, and computer screens — intensive pigs will recognise this as the sort of place in which they spend their miserable lives. She told me the latest management buzz-word was

"face time". You do not go to private meetings any more; you have face time with each other.

So that is what I am doing now: chatting to my newly-arrived pig, giving him apples and generally

encouraging him to feel part of the farm. Snout time. The benefit of your experience would be much appreciated.

This morning I managed to stroke him without having him flee to the darkest corner of the sty. If this management strategy fails, I consider it your duty to act as consultants, and look forward to your experiences.

The other problem I must solve is his name; and here we must tread carefully into muddy territory. I am well aware that a black pig owner was recently condemned for naming his sow Oprah, after the American television star. As both are broad, handsome and black, it seemed appropriate to me; but I live in something of a backwater where the tide of political correctness has yet to flow, and so those who know anything of the affection that goes into the naming of a much-loved pig could understand

why there was nothing offensive in the name.

Here I have a confession to make: we have a young sow here called Thora. Some months ago Dame Thora Hird came filming here and we were bowled over by her. As a tribute, we named one of our much-loved pigs after her. I did not ask permission but knowing her wild Lancashire sense of humour, I am sure that she would surely be flattered. The pig does not seem to mind either.

But with the Oprah incident in my mind, I will not even hint at the names that have been flashing through my mind for our young boar.

Let it be sufficient to say that he has been called Murphy: simply because he is black and stout. My only hope is that he does not live up to his name entirely: we want no hint of bitterness in him when he grows up to be a big boy.

## Power to the people with water wheels

Nick Nuttall reports on an encouraging renewal of interest in water as a source of energy — on scales both large and small

Over the urban sprawl of Wandsworth in southwest London, the faint chimneys of a liberty bell will soon begin ringing out.

At the mouth of the River Wand, a once economically important river now reduced to an open sewer, a unique energy and environment ex-

periment is taking shape. Orchestrated by Platform, an alliance of artists, scientists and writers, and with help from Intermediate Technology, a developing world charity, water power is returning to an area which in the 19th century boasted some of the most powerful water wheels in the world.

The bell, suspended on a gantry where the Wand dries over a weir into the Thames, will ring out four times a day when the tiny, three-kilowatt turbine is started up on November 9.

The project is part of a bigger plan to spur Londoners into rediscovering their forgotten rivers, including the Fleet and the Effra. Micro-hydro electric schemes are now common in developing countries, but this is thought to be the first in a British inner city. Dan Grettton of Platform says next year the electricity generated will be used at nearby St Joseph's primary school. "It is

and their dependence on conventional electricity by installing tiny water turbines on rivers, streams and weirs.

Unlike the giant Scottish and Welsh hydro projects of the postwar era, these smaller systems do not damage valleys and glens by damming waterways. Instead they siphon off some of the river power into a turbine, returning the water after the energy has been removed.

Meanwhile academics and engineering companies are busy developing exotic ocean-going machines with suitably aquatic names such as Frog, Clam, Duck and Osprey.

These aim to tap the powerful tides, currents and waves which ebb, race and pound round the British Isles.

Triggering the renaissance are fears that traditional electricity generation, with its dependence on fuels such as oil and coal, could be leading the planet into a



Jim Arnold

globally warmed era of erratic weather systems. Advances in aerospace and offshore engineering are also making small-scale water power practical and cheaper.

Even quite small falls of water of just a few metres can now be tapped, opening up dozens of potential sites in Britain. The government is already offering modest financial incentives for electricity companies to buy energy from small-scale water schemes, under a levy called the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation.

The two projects highlight how water power, lodged in the popular consciousness as part of a bygone age of rustic flour mills and the early industrial revolution, is staging a comeback.

A small but growing band of landowners, home-owners and specialist groups are abandoning diesel generators

past few years. About 100 bigger schemes are also in operation, ranging from 30 kilowatts to one megawatt (1,000 kilowatts); some of these feed electricity to the national grid.

Commander George Chapman of the National Association of Water Power Users says: "Reputedly there were 20,000 water mills in England and Wales in the 1800s. Quite a lot of these sites remain."

While the electricity potential may be modest, estimates suggest a total of up to 200 megawatts — or a half of one per cent of the nation's needs. The impact on local communities can be substantial. Niall Wright of Edinburgh Hydro Systems, which is involved in the Clyde project, says some hard-pressed estate owners believe selling electricity from water power may be the key to



A print dated 1805 shows the power of a water wheel in action: now they may turn full circle in Britain's history

tilting their operations into profit.

"The profits may help to employ a few more people on the estate," he says. "This may mean the difference between the local shop, bus service and village school closing, or remaining open."

While micro-hydroelectricity may now make technical and economic sense, the same cannot yet be said for ocean-based schemes, although the rewards for the economy and the environment could eventually be significant.

On the shores of Loch Linne, near Fort William, engineers will in November lower a device dubbed a tidal mill into the icy waters. Under the scheme, being orchestrated by IT Power of Eversley, Hampshire, with backing from firms such as Scottish Nuclear, the mill will float with its aero-

plane-style propeller facing towards the natural forces spilling through the Corran Narrows.

If this device fulfils its promise, Britain may be on the way to generating up to a fifth of its electricity from tidal currents.

A recent government study concluded that the Pentland

Firth alone, where currents can race at up to 12 miles an hour, could provide three times as much electricity as Britain's large, hydro-electric schemes.

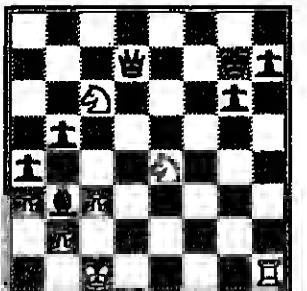
The electricity could cost around 10 pence a unit. But Peter Fraenkel of IT Power says costs could halve with mass production.

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Short - Kasparov, Times World Championship, game 10. It appears that White's attack has burnt out, but he has a final, winning trick up his sleeve. Can you spot it?

Last week's winners are: P T Sheridan, Rowan House, Alder Road, Sidcup, Kent; P D Amer, Arran Place, Joppa, Edinburgh; D Easy, Sherwood Avenue, Potters Bar.



### WORD-WATCHING

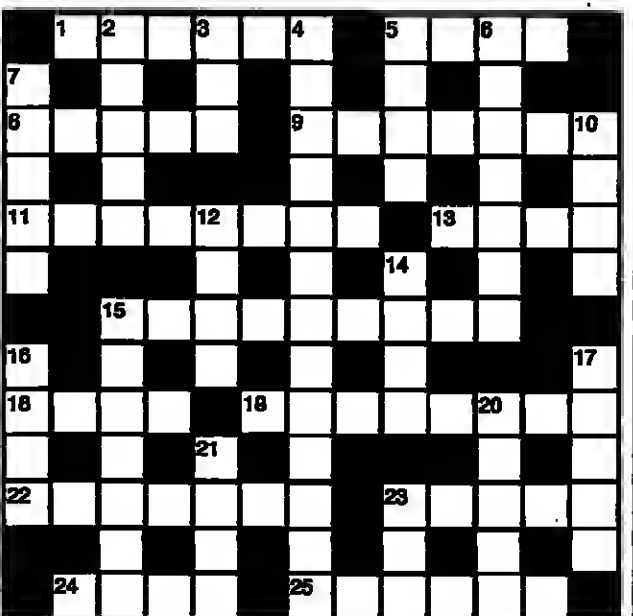
By Philip Howard

**SAXICOLOUS**  
a. A geology student  
b. Growing on rocks  
c. Pertaining to the Saxon shore  
**SCUMBLE**  
a. To limp on crutches  
b. Pantry left-overs  
c. To overlay paint

**FERETORY**  
a. Inclining to Conservatism  
b. A carrying box for ferrets  
c. A portable shrine  
**GREMIAL**  
a. Revolutionary month  
b. Pertaining to the lap  
c. Jovial and genial

Answers on page 15

### CONCISE CROSSWORD NO. 323



#### ACROSS

- 1 Six foot depth (6)
- 5 Restrained (4)
- 8 Rhythmic jazz (5)
- 9 Overwhelm and ruin (7)
- 11 Irritable (6)
- 13 Abrupt movement (4)
- 15 Female wizard (9)
- 16 Special period (4)
- 19 Feverish rash disease (8)
- 22 1940 evacuation port (7)
- 23 Malay chewing nut (5)
- 24 June 6, 1944 (1,3)
- 25 Monarch's stand-in (6)

#### DOWN

- 2 Milling shaft (5)
- 3 Jump (3)
- 4 Trouble stirrer (8,5)
- 5 Closed (4)
- 6 Verbalise (7)
- 7 Deep chasm (5)
- 10 Scrapper (4)
- 12 Stage act (4)
- 14 Repeat (4)
- 15 Scorned (7)
- 16 Discard (4)
- 17 Rejoice (5)
- 20 Adopt insincerely (3,2)
- 21 Slender and strong (4)
- 23 Irritate (3)

#### SOLUTION TO NO 323B

ACROSS: 1 Musee d'Orsay 9 Amiable 10 Scalp 11 Tap 13 Iron 17 Raven 18 Toss 20 Marc 21 Collie 22 Reef 23 Term 25 Sew 28 Unity 29 Oppidan 30 Black market

DOWN: 2 Unine 3 Elbe 4 Diet 5 Rasp 6 Anaemia 7 Sagittarius 8 Up and coming 12 Arnold 14 Mrs 15 Evzone 19 Special 20 Mei 24 Endue 25 Sync 26 Worm 27 Spar

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### Feather report

## Ducking and diving

Riding out on the water on many lakes and ponds now is a little black-and-white duck. The patch of white plumage about the water along the duck's flanks; sometimes the bird rolls over and shows it has a whole gleaming white underside. If you get closer, you can see it has a short black pigtail and bright yellow eyes.

This is the drake tufted duck, "drake duck" sounds odd, but phrases like "tufted drake" have come to sound pedantic. I also have to call the other sex "the female", because "the duck" would be ambiguous and "the duck duck" would sound absurd. Anyway, she is dark brown, but is likewise paler on the flanks, and she too sports the pigtail or tuft.

This is another species that has become a common breeding bird in Britain only in comparatively recent times — it was first recorded in 1824. In the present century, it has benefited greatly from the increase in gravel pits with overgrown banks on which it can nest.

They are more widespread from October onward because many come here to winter from northern Scandinavia and Siberia. Some of our



Native tufted ducks will often mate with the winter migrants

native birds will mate with these immigrants and go back home with them — a practice known as abmigration.

When they are in active mood they are a delight to watch. They are diving ducks, picking up molluscs or weed seeds from the bottom of a lake, and they will go down as many as a hundred times an hour. Generally they dive with a slight leap forward. They

bring out a short distance. The sunshine brings out a brilliant purple gloss on their heads, which they throw back excitedly as part of their courtship display, letting their tufts dangle. Sometimes you hear a growling note from the female.

They have paired up by April, but they are slow to nest after that. It will be almost June before they start building under a bush or in thick grass. Once started, however, they are energetic, with the female commonly laying a dozen large eggs or more. The brown ducklings are out on the water as soon as they hatch and are diving within a few hours.

Many of them will fall victim to pike and heron. But some will still be there to join the winter flocks when they come down from the north — and perhaps, when the spring days lengthen, will be off to breed with a foreign mate.

### DERWENT MAY

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